

NEWS

in brief

Report: Cabinet to consider prisoner releases

The cabinet is to consider a request from the deputy chief of the Palestinian Authority, Mohammed Abbas, to free 100 Palestinian prisoners. Israel Radio reported last night. According to the report, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu plans to hold a discussion about the request sometime this week. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani reportedly supports releasing inmates who are ill or near completion of their terms. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Palestinian travel barriers being eased

Shlomo Dror, the government's policy coordinator for the territories, said yesterday that barriers barring Palestinian visitors and trucks from travelling between the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be eased slightly. He said 90 Palestinian trucks and 10 vans would be authorized to travel daily between the two Palestinian areas without an escort. "It is in Israel's and the Palestinians' interest to improve the Palestinian economic situation because it means we can negotiate on diplomatic issues without economic and security pressures," he said. Dror said Palestinian trucks had not been permitted to travel unescorted through Israeli territory since 1995 when a Palestinian truck-bomb was intercepted en route to its intended target. He said permits given to Palestinians visiting their families in Gaza or the West Bank would be increased from 600 to 1,000 per day. *Reuters*

Palestinians, IDF at odds over Gaza fence

Palestinian and Israeli officers are due to meet today in a bid to resolve a dispute over a fence that was erected by settlers from Eilat in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. Palestinian police yesterday afternoon began taking apart the fence, but IDF forces arrived and intervened. Palestinian sources said. Last night, settlers rebuilt the fence in its entirety. They expressed dismay that armed Palestinian policemen had entered the area of the settlement. But Palestinian Police Commander Gen. Abdel-Razik Majajda said the fence is beyond the land of the settlement. "The settlers, protected by an IDF force, have extended the area of their settlement by 30 dunams, violating all agreements." Majajda said a complaint had been submitted to the IDF but that when there was no response, the Palestinian police began to take the fence apart. *Itim*

No suspects yet in murder of Juarish girl

No suspects have been arrested yet in the Friday night murder of a 16-year-old girl in her grandmother's home, in Juarish. The grandmother was awakened about 3 a.m. by the sound of gunshots and went to the next room, where she found the girl's body. Neighbors responded to the grandmother's screams by calling the police and Magen David Adom. She told police a masked man had run from the house toward the village. The police are investigating the murder as a so-called "family honor killing." *Itim*

Group to march to Temple Mount today

The Temple Mount Faithful will march to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City this morning to commemorate Tisha Be'av and protest the captivity of the Temple Mount. Dressed in sack-cloth and ashes, traditional signs of mourning, the group will walk from the Western Wall to the Mughrabi Gate under police protection. They hope to read the Book of Lamentations at the Temple Mount. "Tisha Be'av is a day which mourns captivity," said the group's chairman, Gershom Solomon. "The Temple Mount is under Arab captivity. We are protesting that, the Oslo Agreements, and the state of Jerusalem." Solomon said they are protesting, in particular, two new mosques built recently in the Moslem Quarter. *Amy Klein*

Romanian Prime Minister begins visit

Romanian Prime Minister Radu Vasile begins an official here today as a guest of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He will be accompanied by a number of ministers and businessmen. Agricultural and investment agreements will be signed during his stay here. Ugandan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Eriya Kategaya is also due to visit this week as a guest of Netanyahu. Accompanying Kategaya will be a delegation of business leaders and Agriculture Ministry officials, who will meet with their Israeli counterparts in order to locate sources for joint investment and development projects. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Zuroff wants action on Lithuanian war criminals

The Simon Wiesenthal Center has asked the Foreign Ministry to find out why the Lithuanian government has not canceled the post-war rehabilitation of 66 of its citizens suspected of war crimes, and demanded that they return the funds and property granted them when they were cleared. Efraim Zuroff, who heads the center's Israel office, said the Lithuanians had promised to take such action against 88 alleged mass murderers, but only deprived 22 of them of their unwarranted rehabilitation. In an earlier letter to Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus, Zuroff said, "we find it extremely strange, if not upsetting, that no steps whatsoever have been taken in these cases to force individuals to return the compensation or real estate they received as part of their rehabilitation." *Jay Bushinsky*

Kraar leaves Council of Jewish Federations

Martin Kraar, the long-time executive of the Council of Jewish Federations, the umbrella agency for some 170 local fund-raising agencies, is leaving his post, just as the CJF is merging with the United Jewish Appeal. Kraar, who will become an official of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, had been thought to be contender for chief executive of the merged operation. The federations collect about \$700 million a year, roughly 30 percent of which is allocated to the Jewish Agency. *Marilyn Henry*

Two new generals promoted

Col. Eli Yaffe, 41, has become OC Artillery Corps, replacing Brig.-Gen. Dan Harel. Yaffe, who was promoted to brigadier-general, was formerly head of operations in the General Staff. Harel has been appointed military aide to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, relieving Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror. Amidror, 50, will take command of the military colleges. Col. Yoram Tsahor was promoted to brigadier-general and appointed OC Military Police. Tsahor, 41, takes over from Brig.-Gen. Niram Goldbrum, who is becoming the IDF attache in Poland. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Volunteers rebuild wrecked Palestinian home

Volunteers from Gush Shalom and the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolition helped rebuild the Shawamreh family home over Shabbat together with villagers from Anata, northeast of Jerusalem. The home was demolished last month because it was built without a permit. The family said they had requested a building permit four times before deciding to build without one in 1994. The High Court of Justice rejected the family's petition against the demolition. *Amy Klein*

Assad: Syria wants peace

But president reiterates refusal to yield on Golan

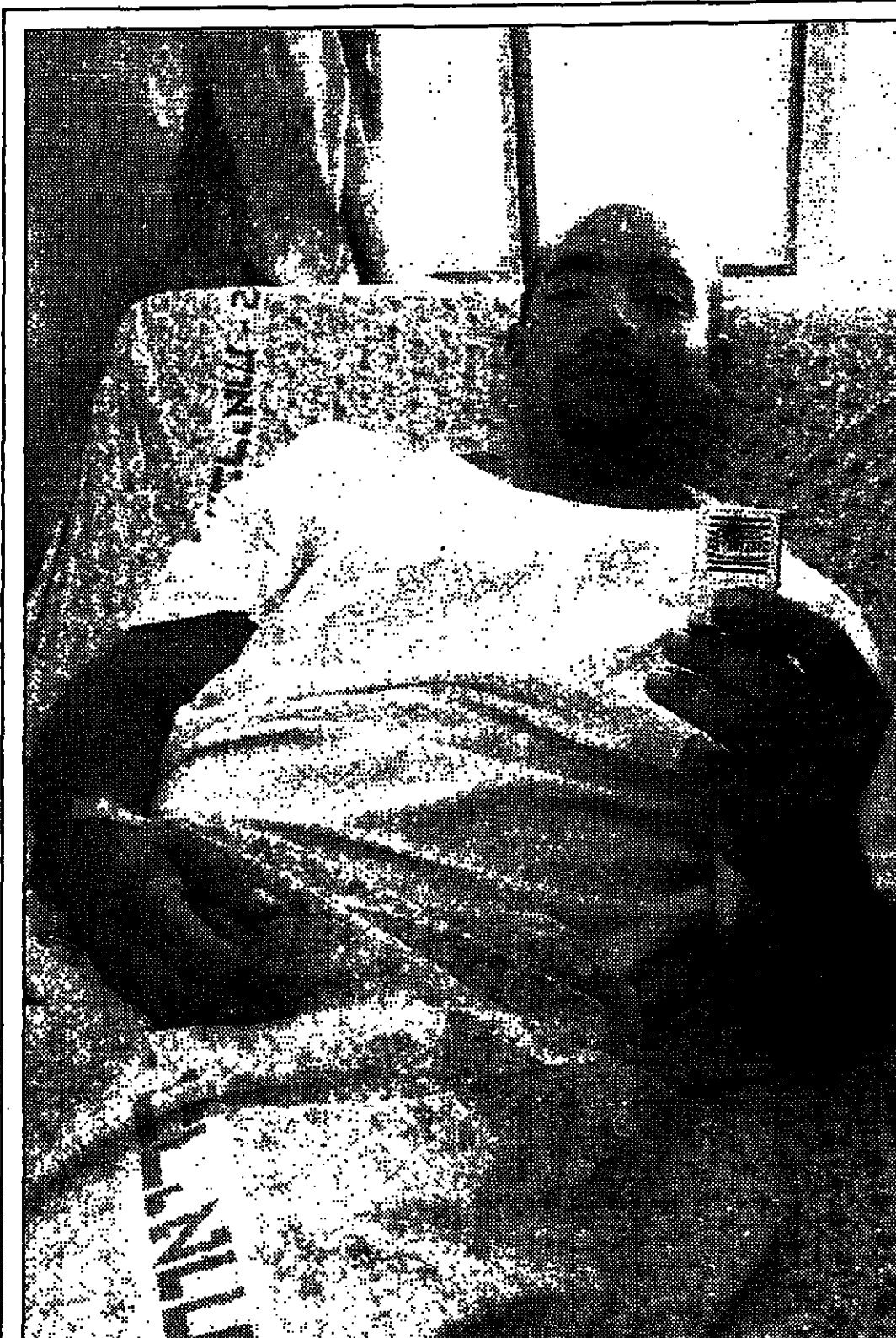
By ISSAM HAMZA

DAMASCUS (Reuters) — President Hafez al-Assad said yesterday that Syria wanted to make peace with Israel but would not make any concessions on land or rights. "We want peace because it is a need for countries of the region and the world. We want peace because it provides a good climate for development and because it

achieves prosperity for all," Assad said. But the Syrian leader said Israeli leaders were mistaken if they thought anyone could give concessions on his country's land or rights. "We have a just cause and we are struggling and using all our resources and capabilities for it," Assad told his armed forces in a speech to mark the 53rd anniversary of the establishment of the army. "We will continue to confront the aggres-

sion and occupation with steadfastness," the Syrian leader added. Assad said the Syrian leadership would continue to provide the armed forces with all the resources they needed to improve their capability. He accused Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of blocking and complicating the peace process, saying Israel's policy was threatening security in the region. Assad said that while Syria's position on

the peace process was gaining increasing international support, Israel was continuing to challenge even those countries who provided it with money and weapons. "We will continue the battle for peace with the same will and determination which has led us, as an army and as a nation, in all our battles," Assad said. "The Golan is Syrian Arab land. It will continue to be so even if our enemies do not want that," he added.



Marcos Zonah, 20 of Ashdod, one of five soldiers wounded in an ambush in south Lebanon on Thursday, in which a sixth soldier was killed, holds up a cigarette lighter which appears to have spared his life. The lighter, which was struck by a bullet, was in Zonah's upper left pocket at the time of the attack. (Arthur Shapiro/Israel Sun)

IAF hits Hizbullah targets

MARIJAYOUN (AP) — Israeli planes fired rockets at guerrilla routes in southern Lebanon Friday, hours after a roadside bomb killed a pro-Israeli militiaman, Lebanese security officials said.

At least two Israeli fighter-bombers fired a total of four missiles at guerrilla infiltration paths in a valley near Jezzine in the security zone, the officials said.

Less than three hours before the raid, a roadside bomb, apparently detonated by remote control, went off on a road out-

side Jezzine as a pickup truck was passing.

The driver, Nabil Iskandar, a member of the South Lebanon Army militia, was killed instantly and his sister Salam, 12, who was sitting next to him, was wounded, the officials said.

Salam is being treated at a nearby hospital. Jezzine is 20 kilometers north of Marjayoun, the main town in the zone.

It is run by the Israeli-backed SLA, a local militia of 2,500 which maintains the zone with

1,500 Israeli soldiers.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the roadside bombing. But the attack bore the hallmarks of the Hizbullah movement.

On Thursday, an IDF soldier, Staff-Sgt. Shahar Mins, 21, from Kfar Ahim, was killed and five others in an ambush while they were on the way to firing practice in south Lebanon in an ambush by Hizbullah.

Mins was buried on Friday. His death brought to nine the number of IDF soldiers killed in Lebanon this year.

Iraq assails UN weapons inspector

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — An Iraqi newspaper launched a fresh attack yesterday against the chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler, a day before he was due to arrive in Iraq for crucial talks with top officials.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the National Assembly, or parliament, would hold an extraordinary meeting tomorrow to discuss "the unjust embargo on Iraq by the states of aggression."

A UN report in June alleging that Iraq had put a lethal VX nerve agent into missile warheads was among a series of "black files" from the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraq, the official Al-Jumhuriya daily said.

"This is but one of a few (examples) of the malicious, biased and unjust trend... and a frenzied desire to waste Iraq's property and military, industrial and economic power," the paper said.

Baghdad has vowed to take unspecified action if Butler and his inspectors fail to report to the 15-member Security Council more quickly that Iraq is free from prohibited arms.

UNSCOM, charged with over-

seeing the destruction of Iraq's ballistic, chemical and biological weapons under the terms of the ceasefire of the 1991 Gulf War says Iraq still conceals information on its prohibited weapons.

It must give Iraq a clean bill of health before the economic sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait can be lifted.

Butler, accompanied by 15 weapons experts, will hold talks tomorrow and Tuesday with Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. Oil Minister Amir Muhammad Rasheed, and other senior officials.

He will discuss with the Iraqis US army tests indicating the presence of the forbidden nerve gas VX in a number of Scud missile warheads recovered from a destruction site north of Baghdad.

Butler will also raise the issue of a document which he said was denied to UN inspectors, detailing shells or bombs Iraq had deployed in its 1980-1988 war against Iran.

Iraqi leaders issued a statement on Thursday, saying they would take measures if crippling sanctions were not removed as soon as possible.

Arab League slams UN over Libya flight ban

CAIRO (AP) — The United Nations' refusal to allow the Arab League Secretary-General to fly to Libya was "authoritarian and sub-born," the League said yesterday.

Secretary-General Esmet Meguid had requested permission Tuesday to fly to Libya for talks with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi on the recent US-British discussions on holding the trial for the two alleged Lockerbie bombers in the Netherlands.

But the UN committee which monitors the air sanctions imposed on Libya turned the request down on Thursday.

The UN Security Council imposed the sanctions in 1992 in a bid to force Libya to hand over the two Libyans accused of planting a bomb on an American airliner that killed 270 when it blew up over Lockerbie in 1988.

"The request to the ... UN sanctions committee was out of the Arab League's respect for international resolutions," the League said in a statement from its Cairo headquarters.

Dahlan: Pullback agreement possible

By LAMIA LAHOUD

Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian Authority's Preventive Security Chief in Gaza, said yesterday he thought that despite threats by other PA leaders to stop the talks with Israel, he thought there was a chance of reaching a pullback agreement.

"First the Israelis were talking about 9%, now we are discussing ways to implement the 13% pullback," Dahlan told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Dahlan is involved in the negotiations led by the Palestinian Authority's deputy leader, Mahmoud Abbas, who also known as Abu Mazen.

Referring to Israel's proposal to create a nature reserve in part of the disputed area, or a so-called Area D, Dahlan stressed that the PA would not agree to create new areas not mentioned in the Oslo agreement like they did in the Hebron agreement.

"The Israelis try to come back to the model of Hebron where they created a special status for the old city and divided Hebron into H1 and H2" areas, he explained.

According to Dahlan, the PA is ready to accept 2-3% of the pullback in the Judean Desert and could even agree to make this area a nature reserve since that would suit the nature of the zone.

But, he stressed that the PA would not agree to hand over all security arrangements to the Israelis.

"First they tell us that they want to give us 2-3%, because it was easier from a security point of

view, and then they say that for reasons of security they need to be in charge," Dahlan said. "That's a contradiction and we will not accept it," he added.

PA officials have said that they could agree to giving the 2-3% area the status of Area B instead of A.

In area B, Israel controls security, while public order and civilian matters are under PA control.

The PA has also demanded that the second pullback create a contiguous of Palestinian areas.

According to a senior PA official, Israel is ready to agree to this demand in the area between Jenin and Nablus.

According to Dahlan, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu wants to renegotiate a security memorandum he rejected several months ago which was worked out between the PA's security, Israeli security and the CIA.

"All three sides agreed," Dahlan said. "Netanyahu rejected it after the Israeli security agreed and now he wants to renegotiate it and make changes," he added.

Dahlan refuses to renegotiate the memorandum. Abu Mazen also believes that there is no reason to reopen it, maintaining that the accord was fair and balanced and set clear guidelines for fighting terrorism.

According to Abbas, Netanyahu turned down the memorandum because it called for setting up a US-Israeli monitoring group. Abbas argued that American involvement would have made it more difficult for Israel to accuse the PA of failing to fight terrorism.

Arson suspected in Jerusalem-area fire

The authorities believe that a fire that destroyed dozens of dunams of woodland in the Arazim on the outskirts of Jerusalem last night was probably caused by arson.

It took nine teams of firefighters and police, aided by a helicopter, to control the fire which broke out in the early evening and spread quickly to the east and west, reaching Mevasseret Zion, Romema and Ramot.

Another fire, which broke out two hours later near Har Hamenuhot in Givat Shaul, strengthened the suspicions of arson.

Thick smoke spread from the entrance to the capital through the city. Until the blaze was brought under control around 9 p.m., the highway to Tel Aviv was closed intermittently, causing traffic jams in both directions. *(Itim)*

ORR

Continued from Page 1

"I won't be Labor's victim in this matter. Let the public judge. The attacks of some of my colleagues stem from other interests, not merely concern for equality."

Coalition Chairman MK Meir Sheerit yesterday criticized the Labor members' attack on Orr and praised Barak's restrained handling of the affair.

"Their assault on Orr was out of proportion and exceeded the bounds of good taste. It was almost a lynch. Orr erred, he apologized and should be forgiven."

"Barak's response was much more balanced and rational than

MK Haim Ramon's or some of the MKs clamoring for Orr's head," Sheerit said.

Labor MK Yossi Beilin also commended Barak for "taking the harder way and instead of reacting drastically against Orr, opting for a fairer course of action."

"Orr apologized and explained some of the things he said were distorted. He does not deserve to be abandoned by all his friends or to have them competing as to who can hurt him the most."

Last week MKs Ramon, Uzi Baram, Ben-Ami and others demanded that Orr quit the Knesset and politics, maintaining there was no room in Labor for someone with his racist views.

Itim contributed to this report.

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Tisha Be'av

Worshippers read the Book of Lamentations and special elegies known as 'kinot' at the Western Wall last night, shortly after Tisha Be'av began. Thousands of mourners were expected at the Western Wall last night and today to mourn the destruction of the Temple. Hundreds of police and soldiers are stationed in the area. Ambulances and first aid stations also were set up in the area to assist anyone who becomes ill during the fast, which ends tonight at 8:08.

(Joe Makolm)

Iran: Military buildup is needed to counter Israel

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — Iranian Defense Minister Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani has pledged that Iran's military power will not be directed at any Arab state, suggesting instead that its military build-up is intended to confront Israel.

In an interview with the Saudi-owned weekly *al-Wasat*, obtained ahead of publication here tomorrow, Shamkhani said that Iran's military power is "part of the capabilities of the Arab and Islamic worlds."

"It is certainly not directed against the interests of the Arab states," he said. "On the contrary, it adds to the strength of the Islamic world in facing the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations."

Asked why Iran was building up its military muscle, increasing its arms procurements, deploying three Russian-built submarines and developing its missile program, including the test-firing of Shihab-3 missile, Shamkhani replied: "You

would notice that no other country has been as bullied or threatened as Iran. Israel, for instance, menaces Iran more than it menaces any other country."

Meanwhile, Iranian President Mohammed Khatami, said in Tehran yesterday that Israel constitutes the main danger to peace.

"Armed with a stockpile of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, the Zionist regime is a major threat to the regional countries as well as others," he said in remarks at a Defense Ministry exhibit that were quoted by Associated Press.

Khatami devoted much of his speech to encouraging the army to keep building up the country's defenses and to stay out of political factionalism.

Iran successfully test-fired the Shihab-3 missile last month, which has a range of 1,300 kilometers.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported Friday that within two to five years it will deploy the more sophisticated Shihab-4, which will have a

range of some 2,000 kilometers and be capable of carrying a non-conventional payload.

While the Shihab-3 is based on North Korean know-how, the new missile will be based exclusively on Russian technology.

In his interview with *al-Wasat*, however, Shamkhani denied any secret military cooperation or arms-purchase agreements between Iran and Russia: "We cooperate with Russia in the open and there are no secret agreements between us," he said.

"We have had to turn East because of the Western arms embargo and our need to develop our defensive systems... But we do not seek to acquire any of the non-conventional weapons," he said.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, he said, the United States had shifted its hostility to Iran: "Washington wants to paint us as the region's monster." Shamkhani said he believed a military strike against Iran by the US or Israel was "unlikely in the foreseeable

future." But he did not believe a resumption of ties between Tehran and Washington was imminent.

"At the moment, this is unlikely. I don't expect an early resumption of relations. America does not want to bury its aggressive aims and hegemonic policies," he said.

Khatami, in his remarks yesterday, praised the test-firing of the Shihab-3 missile, saying it showed trade sanctions have not prevented Iran from developing its armed forces.

He said his country was opposed to nuclear weapons and supports a ban on weapons of mass destruction.

"I unequivocally state that driven by our Islamic values and humanitarian principles, we are against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

"We shake the hands of all governments and benevolent forces in the promotion of peace and in removing such weapons from the entire world," he added.

Motorcyclist dies after hitting truck

A motorcyclist was killed in Galilee on Friday afternoon when he crashed into a truck. The truck driver reportedly ignored a stop sign at the intersection leading to Kafr Abu Sinan and drove right into the path of 27-year-old Marc

Yanovsky, of Ma'alot. Police detained the truck driver.

Suleiman Anami, who was injured in a traffic accident on Thursday, died on Friday at Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. Anami, 50, of Kuseifa, was hit by a jeep as he was crossing the

Beersheba-Arad highway. Police are investigating the incident.

The driver of a garbage truck in Tel Aviv was lightly injured on Friday when the guard rail on the truck was damaged and the truck hit a tree and a lamppost. A Magen David Adom ambulance

took the driver to a hospital.

Ten people were killed in traffic accidents last week. A total of 936 people were injured — including 14 who were seriously injured and 31 who were moderately injured — in 642 traffic accidents during the week. (Itim)

Bill could force US to reveal Cold War dealings with Nazis

By RONALD POWERS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department and other agencies may be forced to declassify tens of thousands of top-secret documents describing the US intelligence community's dealings with Nazi war criminals in the Cold War years.

Legislation to open most of those files has already passed the Senate and could come up for a vote in the House of Representatives as early as this week.

Some historians suspect the opened files could cause "tremendous embarrassments" for the US.

"This potentially is the biggest series of revelations since the Nuremberg [war crimes] trials," said historian Robert Herzstein, speaking by telephone from his office at the University of South Carolina.

"There will be cases that the authorities would prefer not come out," he said. "This was all done in the name of anti-communism in the early Cold War."

Herzstein and some other historians already have partly penetrated the wall of secrecy erected by the CIA, the FBI, the State Department, and other agencies that hold the files, but many remain veiled in secrecy.

For half a century, federal agencies have resisted opening the files, telling historians, journalists, lawmakers and Holocaust survivors that national security was at stake and that promises previously made to "intelligence assets" made it impossible.

Still, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a cosponsor of the Senate legislation, said the documents "have been held far too long, well beyond the time when their disclosure might have posed a threat to national security."

"Those who suffered from the Holocaust are reaching the end of their lifespan. We owe it to them to make available as much information about that terrible period as possible," Moynihan said.

Jacob Hennenberg, a 74-year-old Holocaust survivor from Poland who spent four years in a concentration camp and lost dozens of relatives to the Nazis, agreed.

"If the US government would come out with all this information that is hidden, maybe that would help to ease the pain of knowing that you can't do anything," he said from his home in Cleveland.

"People would be held accountable. Countries would be held accountable," he said.

Many Nazis, including the infamous "Butcher of Lyons," Gestapo official Klaus Barbie,

escaped occupied Europe following World War II and got to South America with the help of US authorities, like the counterintelligence corps of the US Army," Herzstein said. Barbie was convicted of crimes against humanity in France in 1987 and later died in prison.

Citing another example, Herzstein said the State Department and other agencies have told him for a decade that national security concerns bar them from releasing documents on the government's relationship with Kurt Waldheim, a former president of Austria and a former UN secretary-general.

Herzstein is questioning the government's role in concealing Waldheim's past as a Wehrmacht intelligence officer in the Balkans, where thousands of Nazi victims were deported to death camps.

"The small amount of documentation I have obtained from State and CIA reveals a pattern of protection," Herzstein said.

"But why did US officials protect a man like Kurt Waldheim? Was Waldheim being used as an intelligence asset for which he was protected from revelations about his wartime past?" he asked.

Holocaust-era documents uncovered last year revealed that the US had been aware the Nazi Germany mint took gold stolen from European banks and melted it with gold pulled from the mouths and fingers of Nazi death-camp victims.

But Herzstein and other historians note that not everything in the files will prove nefarious.

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations used the files to hunt down Nazis who came to the US illegally after the war.

And the files provided much of the information unearthed by Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat in his mission to compensate victims for assets stolen by the Nazis.

Under the proposed legislation, the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, tens of thousands of top-secret documents from many federal agencies would be declassified and transferred to the National Archives. Information that would endanger the nation's security would remain sealed.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, who is sponsoring the legislation in the House, said, "If countries like Russia, Argentina, and Lithuania are opening their war crime files, how can the United States, the country with democratic roots, be the last to lift the shroud of secrecy?"

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US to rule on citizenship of former Nazi camp guard

NEW YORK (AP) — One winter morning during World War II, Jack Reimer stood 4 meters from a large crater looking at the bodies of dozens of massacred Jews. One man who was still breathing pointed to his head, a gesture Reimer says was a plea for a mercy killing. He fired one shot.

Now, the 79-year-old Reimer is himself pleading for mercy for what happened after the German army took him prisoner in the summer of 1941 and told him to train other Ukrainian prisoners in the Trawniki training camp in eastern Poland.

In an affidavit, Reimer said he was coerced into helping the Germans. He said the Nazis shot as many as 40 of his fellow Ukrainians and hanged one man who asked a guard what the Germans were doing to Jews.

"I was a captive who was forced to work at Trawniki," he said.

Beginning tomorrow in federal court, a judge will try to decide whether Reimer, who immigrated after the war and led a quiet life in suburban Carmel, in upstate New York, deserves to keep his US citizenship.

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations contends that Reimer lied on his 1952 application to enter the US.

Reimer was in the Soviet military when he was captured by the Nazis. According to published accounts, he then chose to recruit and train concentration camp guards at Trawniki.

Reimer, the prosecutors say, also was at Trawniki on November 3, 1943, when virtually all of the 6,000 Jewish men, women and chil-

dren at an adjacent concentration camp were shot to death.

His unit was assigned to search afterward for escapees and to shoot them.

Two weeks later, Jewish prisoners who were brought to the camp to dispose of the corpses were guarded by Reimer's unit and shot, prosecutors allege.

He arrived in New York on June 12, 1952, and became a citizen in 1959.

If US District Judge Lawrence M. McKenna revokes Reimer's citizenship, the government could seek his deportation.

Much of the government's case rests on a deposition Reimer gave to investigators on May 1, 1992.

Of the participation of prisoners of war like himself, Reimer said: "We were only the instrument."

"I did not volunteer for this Trawniki business. I was ashamed of it. I didn't want to remember it," he said, alleging constant coercion, intimidation and threats from the Germans.

He told about the winter killing of what he estimated as 40 to 60 Jews at Trawniki, saying that after he was summoned by a German guard, he arrived at the spot, rifle in hand, to find the victims already dead except for one man.

"One of them already in the grave pointed the finger to his head, begged for mercy, so to speak," Reimer said.

"You finished him off?" he was asked.

"I am afraid so. I don't know if I hit his head.

I don't know that," Reimer answered.

After the 1943 killings, Reimer said he drank vodka with other soldiers to deaden his senses against the stench of rotting and burning flesh.

"It is awful, human bodies burning, you have no idea what a smell it was," he told investigators.

Reimer said he deserves to stay in the US, where he has raised two children, once owned a restaurant on Times Square, and has been a model citizen, not even getting a traffic ticket in the last half century.

"It would be the worst punishment for me to be deported from this country," he said. "This is the only country I know."

Reimer's name surfaced in the 1970s when the US was investigating John Demjanjuk, who was accused of being the Treblinka guard "Ivan the Terrible."

Demjanjuk was convicted in Jerusalem of war crimes, then freed by the Israeli Supreme Court, which ruled in 1993 there was reasonable doubt that Demjanjuk was Ivan the Terrible.

Demjanjuk's American citizenship was restored earlier this year, when a US federal judge ruled that the Justice Department had acted with "reckless disregard" in the case because in 1981 it withheld evidence that Demjanjuk could have used to fight extradition from the US.

Among the evidence was an interview conducted with a man who had been at the Trawniki camp.

Marilyn Henry contributed to this report.

Britain tries man accused of killing Jews in WWII

LONDON (Reuters) — A 77-year-old former railway worker denied killing four Jews during World War II, in the run-up to Britain's first war crimes trial on Friday.

Anthony Sawoniuk is charged with the killings in late 1942 in his hometown of Domachevo, which was then in German-occupied Byelorussia (now Belarus).

He replied firmly "not guilty" as

each of the charges was read out.

The grey-haired, bespectacled pensioner hobbled into court wearing a shabby brown jacket with a tabloid paper sticking out of the pocket and a bright pink shirt. He spoke only to confirm his name and deny the charges.

An earlier war crimes case, held under a controversial act of parliament passed in 1991, collapsed in 1996 when the defendant, Szymon

Serafinowicz, was declared mentally unfit to stand trial.

Serafinowicz died last year at the age of 87. Sawoniuk is younger and looks fitter, although he is partially deaf.

Sawoniuk is charged with killing two unnamed Jewish women, a "Jew known as Mir Barlas" and a "Jew known as Schlenko" in Domachevo, which is now in Poland. The town is on the border

of Belarus and Poland and has passed back and forth between the two countries repeatedly as boundaries changed.

Following a committal hearing lasting around two months, magistrate Graham Parkinson ruled there was not enough evidence to try Sawoniuk on a fifth murder charge.

Sawoniuk's given name is Andrzej, but he changed it to Anthony after he came to Britain.

Deutsche Bank apologizes for dealing in victims' gold

But report says 'no unequivocal record' that directors were aware of source of wealth

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Deutsche Bank said that it "regrets most deeply injustices that occurred" after a historians' report revealed that Germany's largest bank had dealt in Nazi gold during World War II, including 744 kilograms in Jewish dental gold and wedding rings.

However, there was "no unequivocal record" that the bank's war-era directors "had knowledge of the origin of the [Nazi] victims' gold that was purchased from the Reichsbank," said the report issued Friday in Frankfurt by an independent panel of historians, including an Israeli.

But, one leading official, financier Hermann Abs, "was in possession of far-reaching contacts, and it is possible that he and perhaps other members of the board were aware of the existence of victims' gold," the report said. "Based on that, it is possible they were aware that the gold was originally the property of the victims of Nazi Germany."

The leader of Germany's Jewish com-

munity, Ignatz Bubis, said the conclusion could have been more strongly worded.

"The people at the top, I think, all knew where the gold came from," Bubis told AP. "There was a conspiracy of silence."

The bank used its branches in occupied Austria and so-called neutral Turkey to channel its gold transactions — worth \$5 million in war-era values — with the Reichsbank.

According to the report, of purchases totaling 4,446 kilograms of gold, 744 kilograms was composed of dental gold, wedding bands and personal jewelry collected by an SS officer named Bruno Meimer.

Accounts bearing Meimer's name appear to indicate victim gold, according to numerous historians.

The panel found a "direct link" between 63 gold bars of victim gold that was smelted by Degussa during the war, and gold Deutsche bought from the Reichsbank, according to news accounts.

In June, US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat released the second American report on Nazi gold, which said

Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank obtained nearly \$1 million in victim gold.

Soon after the Eizenstat report, a class-action suit was filed in New York against those banks, and Friday's report — by five historians from Israel, the US, Britain and Germany — was seen as bolstering that lawsuit.

The panel consisted of Abraham Barkai, Gerald Feldman, Lothar Gall, Harold James and Jonathan Steinberg, the report's main author.

Deutsche Bank formed the panel itself after a German television report in December that the bank had bought Reichsbank gold robbed from Jews. The panel conducted its research using the bank's own microfilm records, the books of the defunct Reichsbank and files from Degussa.

The banks have said that their officials did not know of the gold's origins, but acknowledge the transactions.

"Of course these transactions took place," said Deutsche Bank spokesman Ronald Weichert. "This gold business was normal business during the war."

Another report, by another panel of historians, recently attempted to measure Nazi gold trade with the Swiss National Bank, which was the biggest single buyer of looted Nazi gold.

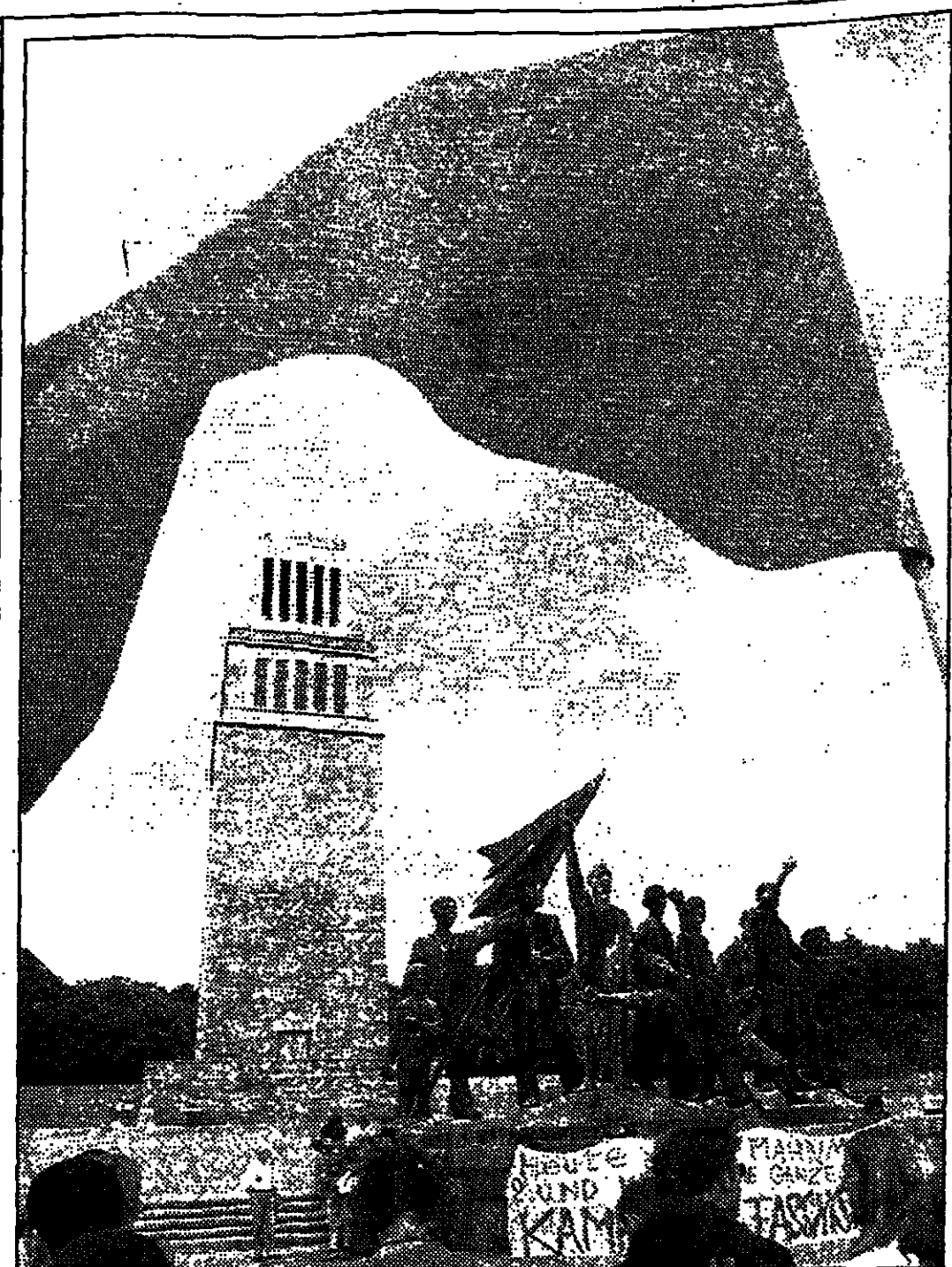
That panel said it had traced 119.5 kilograms of victim gold that was sent to Switzerland, but in that case, too, there was no evidence that the Swiss knew of the gold's origins.

The Swiss National Bank is also facing a lawsuit in the US. It has been argued that Switzerland helped prolong the war by trading with the Nazis and thus providing Germany with currency to buy war materials.

The German report said that Deutsche Bank earned about \$378,000 from the transactions with the Reichsbank, less than 0.15 percent of the bank's profit.

In a statement issued Friday, the German bank said it "fully acknowledges its moral and ethical responsibility for the darkest chapter of its history." It also said that it "regrets most deeply injustices that occurred."

AP contributed to this report.



Protest against Buchenwald vandalism

A red flag was waved yesterday during a wreath-laying ceremony against the vandalism of a bronze statue near the site of Buchenwald concentration camp in Weimar, Germany. Three young men attacked and vandalized the monument on July 24.

(AP)

Swiss group calls for end to sanctions over Holocaust assets

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Hinting at a trade war with the US, a Swiss business coalition has published an open letter to President Bill Clinton, urging him to call for an end to sanctions threatened by US state and local governments over Holocaust-era Jewish assets.

In a full-page ad in Friday's *New York Times*, the coalition called the sanctions "illegal, unjustified and ultimately counterproductive."

It alluded to a Swiss reaction, saying that "entering a downward spiral of sanctions and counter-sanctions" could threaten nearly a half-million American jobs.

"No other country has reacted in such a positive manner to this historical challenge as has Switzerland," said the coalition, adding that Switzerland's efforts have been "recognized" by Israel and the US.

Last month, Flavio Cotti, the Swiss foreign minister and president, wrote to Clinton, demanding that he block city and state sanctions against Swiss banks. US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat has repeatedly said that the Clinton administration opposes sanctions as harmful for Holocaust survivors, US-Swiss relations and American financial markets.

But in a direct conflict with the US federal government over foreign policy, public finance officers in New York, California, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are calling for sanctions.

It is no longer clear, however, who is the target of sanctions.

These were aimed originally at forcing Swiss banks to settle with the World Jewish Congress and lawyers for Holocaust victims who have filed three class-action lawsuits. In June, the Swiss commercial banks offered \$530 million, which was dismissed as insulting.

American officials have since indicated that they expect the Swiss government to participate in the settlement, although Bern is not a direct party in the talks, which have been mediated by Eizenstat.

Most of the public finance officials calling for sanctions are elected, and there were news reports last week that the campaign treasuries of two New York officials are benefiting from at least one of the law firms suing the banks, Milberg Weiss.

City Controller Alan Hevesi has collected the maximum permitted by the campaign law from the firm Milberg Weiss in the last six months. *The New York Post* reported. Hevesi is expected to run for mayor in 2001.

Melvyn Weiss, a senior partner at Milberg, also has been a fundraiser for the state comptroller, H. Carl McCall, who is up for reelection this November. *The New York Times* reported.

Meanwhile, under pressure from European allies and American trade groups, the White House and Congress are reviewing the overall use of sanctions, which have been inconsistently applied or implemented. More than 75 countries are now subjected to or threatened by American sanctions.

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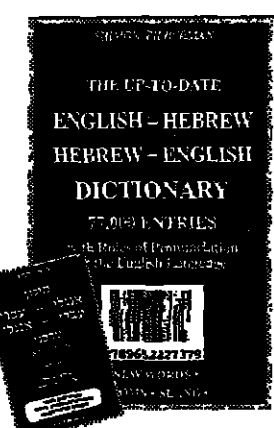
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Scandal injects uncertainty into US midterm vote

ANALYSIS

By Alan Elster

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The prospect of the White House sex-and-perjury scandal coming to a head this autumn has cast new uncertainty over the November midterm elections. Some are predicting it will help the Republican cause.

The November 3 election, in which 36 governorships, 34 Senate seats and all 435 seats in the House of Representatives are up for grabs, had been shaping up as a largely status-quo election. The main focus was on the Democrats' push to gain the 11 seats they need to recapture control of the House.

But the prospect of special prosecutor Kenneth Starr delivering to Congress a damning report from his scandal probe two months or less before election day could change that.

Starr is investigating allegations that President Bill Clinton had an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and then urged her to lie about it. Clinton has denied the allegations.

"So far, it has not been a factor. I don't see this as a windfall for Republicans, but it certainly doesn't work against us. If there is any breeze blowing, it is at our backs," said Mike Russell of the Republican senatorial campaign committee.

Political strategists see the scan-

dal potentially working against Democrats in two ways. First, it riles up Clinton-hating Republicans to get to the polls, while dampening Democratic enthusiasm. Second, it may turn Clinton into an isolated and beleaguered figure unable to set a national agenda and rally the Democratic faithful.

"The White House and the office of the presidency is the most powerful bully pulpit in the nation and Clinton is clearly unable to exploit that right now. He has lost his ability to build an agenda for Democrats to run on," Russell said.

Polls continue to show Clinton's job-approval rating at historically high levels for a president in the middle of his second term. But voter contentment was never likely to translate into increased support for Democrats.

"Midterm elections have always been a chance for people to get out and register their disapproval of the incumbent of the White House. The Democratic Party has up to now seemed impervious to Clinton's strength. It remains to see how it would be affected by his weakness," said Allan Lichtman, a historian at American University in Washington.

If Starr reports to Congress in late August or September, his findings will dominate the headlines, largely drowning out candidates' efforts to run their campaigns. Yet Republicans will have little time to act on them before adjourning for the election.

Republicans have recently tried to play down the issue, preferring to



Monica Lewinsky (AP)

let the salacious headlines speak for themselves.

But some on the right of the party, especially prospective presidential candidates for the year 2000, are likely to find the temptation to weigh in with moralizing messages attacking Clinton too hard to resist.

"My guess is that a Starr report laced with sex, lies, and audiotape would hurt Democrats — at least giving Republicans the chance to argue that voters should support them to keep a check on an irresponsible Clinton," said Morton Kondracke of *Roll Call*, a newspaper that covers Capitol Hill.

Democrats disagree. They see the scandal possibly even helping them.

"If Republicans think they can win by investigating the president, they're wrong, as has been proven in the past six months," said

Melissa Ratcliff, spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee.

"Voters are not going to think about which candidate is the best for investigating the president when they get into the voting booth. They'll think about which is best for dealing with health care, education and the other issues that affect their lives," Ratcliff said.

So far, Clinton's troubles have not hurt Democratic fund-raising, which is up 84 percent over the last midterm election in 1994, thanks largely to herculean efforts by the president.

Clinton is committed to 12 more events to raise a further \$18 million in the weeks leading up to election day.

"We're turning people away from his events. Enthusiasm is running very high. I am not a soothsayer, but so far this has not hurt us, and if Republicans want to campaign on Clinton, that's a playing field we will happily play on," said Olivia Morgan, spokeswoman of the Democratic congressional campaign committee.

Political newsletter publisher Charles Cook said the scandal had yet to make an impact on the midterm campaign.

"Certainly the allegations surrounding the president could create anti-Democratic sentiment, but a mismanaged impeachment attempt could hurt Republicans. Some new dynamic may yet come into play during this 1998 campaign, but there surely is not one apparent yet," he said.

'Dr. Death' evidence closes S. Africa truth panel

By JEREMY LOVELL

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South Africa's truth commission ended a two-year probe into the human rights record of apartheid on Friday with grudging testimony from the country's former chemical warfare chief, dubbed "Doctor Death".

But a key part of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission ended its investigations into apartheid abuses on a surprisingly high note.

The commission's human rights panel, at which some of the most painful memories of the past were heard, closed its books with an informative questioning of Wouter Basson, the architect of the apartheid era chemical weapons program.

Basson, 48, dubbed "Doctor Death", had tried for two days to wriggle out of giving testimony on the grounds of possible self-incrimination.

Friday morning began with the man, who is rapidly becoming the most loathed white in South Africa, flanked by a scrum of lawyers clashing repeatedly with panel chairman Dumisa Nisebeza and inquisitor Hanif Vally.

But after nine hours of grudging testimony, and with his team of lawyers having left for other appointments, Basson gradually began a pugnacious but informative defense of his work.

He defended his chemical weapons program as having been no different from any other nation's and flatly rejected evidence from other scientists that it made secret poisons for murder, tried to render blacks infertile and manufactured illegal drugs.

"I only wish you could have had the same courage two days ago," Nisebeza congratulated him on his evidence while closing the hearing.

It was a high point for the panel to end on after the proceedings teetered dangerously close on several occasions to a slanging match as tempers frayed under the pressure of the Friday midnight deadline.

At one stage on Thursday, it seemed probable that Basson would be dragged to court and charged with contempt as he repeatedly refused to answer any questions — even on his age and rank.

But at the end, the image was not one of outright confrontation between a man seen to represent the particularly loathsome side of apartheid, and the seekers of the truth.

It was instead an image of a meeting of two competent who came to understand, if not respect, their relative positions.

On the other hand, there was a picture of one of the apartheid regime's most secret operatives telling at least his version of the truth.

The truth commission, which will hand its final report to President Nelson Mandela at the end of October, has been accused of causing more divisions between the races than when it started in December 1996.

The majority black population has been happy to hear of the fate of missing loved ones but at some of the revelations, while whites have been appalled at some of the acts committed in their name.

The commission has also been accused of bias against the former apartheid regime and of turning a blind eye to some of the crimes committed by the black liberation forces.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the leader and moral conscience of the commission, denies the bias argument and says that now the long process of reconciliation can begin.

Although the human rights violation panel has now formally ended its public work, the truth commission has not shut up shop.

Its independent Amnesty Committee still has lots of applications to wade through and it is expected to sit until June next year.

The staff of the commission also has lots of work remaining as they process thousands of outstanding claims for reparations.

Like an old soldier the truth commission has not died, but it will fade away.

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in brief

Genocide suspect dies of heart attack

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) — A top suspect at the Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal, and the first person to stand trial for genocide there, died in his cell yesterday of a heart attack. Bosnian Serb Milan Kovacevic, 57, died between 9 and 9:30 a.m. after guards failed to resuscitate him at the tribunal's detention center near The Hague, spokesman Christian Chartier said. Kovacevic had a history of heart trouble and was undergoing medical treatment, he added.

"The trial proceedings will be terminated," Chartier said. Kovacevic, a former hospital director, was accused of setting up camps in the Prijedor region of northwestern Bosnia in which Muslims and Croats were raped, tortured and killed.

US Justice Department files against Microsoft

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The US Justice Department on Friday filed a motion to compel software giant Microsoft Corp. to turn over certain key documents and make Chairman Bill Gates available to answer the government's questions.

The documents include source code files of certain versions of its Windows 95 and Windows 98 software. The US government and 20 states filed a broad antitrust suit against Microsoft in May, accusing the company of using its monopoly in personal computer operating systems to gain monopolies in other business areas.

The case is due to go to trial September 8.

Myanmar eases blockade near Suu Kyi's house

YANGON (Reuters) — Myanmar's ruling military lifted a road blockade that stopped supporters of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from seeing her on Friday and early yesterday, witnesses said. They said a small group of members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy was allowed access to the compound of her lakeside residence in central Yangon but they could not estimate the number of people seeing her.

Suu Kyi was recovering from dehydration after a six-day sit-in protest in her car at a village on the outskirts of Yangon. On Wednesday night, security personnel forcibly removed the opposition leader from the car and sent her back home, a move the NLD called a criminal act.

Ex-US hostage, Iranian captor shake hands

PARIS (Reuters) — When Barry Rosen last saw Abbas Abdi, the American was a hostage and the Iranian his captor.

On Friday, nearly 20 years later, they shook hands, a little uneasily, and tried to put the past behind them.

The men met in Paris for a two-hour debate aimed at building on the first tentative signs of a thaw in the tense relations between the United States and Iran. Both men found it difficult to shrug off the 1979 seizure of the US embassy in Tehran, and all that followed. "The past can't be made to go away and it shouldn't. But a new beginning can be made," said Rosen, who was the embassy press attache.

Russia offers aid, Chechens see new hope

NAZARAN, Russia (Reuters) — Russian Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko yesterday offered to make good on promises of economic aid to devastated rebel Chechnya, prompting the region's leader to say he had "new hope" after their talks.

"We need stability and peace in Chechnya and the whole North Caucasus... We need to settle Chechnya's economic problems," Kiriyenko told a joint news conference after two hours of talks in Nazran, capital of Ingushetia, a region adjoining Chechnya. "We must also provide work for the citizens of Chechen, considering there was a war and the whole economy was ruined," he said.

Kiriyenko, 36, only took office four months ago and so is largely free of involvement — in the eyes of the Chechens — in the assault on them launched in December 1994.

Prince Charles enjoys early 50th birthday party

LONDON, July 31 (Reuters) — Prince Charles celebrated an early 50th birthday party on Friday with his two sons and long-standing companion Camilla-Parker Bowles amongst the 100 guests.

Prince William and Prince Harry performed alongside screen stars Emma Thompson and Stephen Fry in an hour-long comedy sketch especially written for the festivities at Charles' Highgrove residence in western England, the *Mirror* newspaper said.

Food aid reaches Kosovo refugees

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) — The United Nations yesterday made its first emergency aid delivery to refugees who fled from a Serbian military offensive into Kosovo's baking hot hills.

UN aid workers found up to 1,000 ethnic Albanian civilians with many children and some newborn infants sheltering on slopes above Malisevo, which was abandoned by separatist guerrillas in a headlong retreat last Tuesday.

"There are an estimated 20,000 displaced in this region and the issue now is where the hell are they all? Perhaps further up in the hills," said Eduardo Arboleda at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' office in Kosovo.

"It appears that some of these people are venturing down to their villages in daytime to cook, but they don't want to sleep there because fear for their safety," he said.

"The villages look empty inside and there was little military presence of any kind in the area today. Although the civilians we found seemed to be in fair condition, this is a very vulnerable population."

A 10-ton UNHCR truck unloaded three metric tons of wheat flour, 350 food parcels containing rice, beans, pasta, cooking oil, salt and other provisions to nourish 1,000 people for three weeks, plus high-protein biscuits for children.

It was the first aid shipment to refugees stampeded into the bush by government troops sweeping into Malisevo, which is in the west of central Kosovo. It came a day after Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic promised to have his forces stop obstructing access to displaced Albanians.

UNHCR also delivered 160 metric tons of food, medicine, hygienic items and mattresses on Thursday to around 6,000 ethnic Albanians cowering in hills above



Ethnic Albanians unload boxes of humanitarian aid donated by the UN for about 2,000 Albanian refugees in the village of Crnovrime, near Malisevo yesterday. Thousands of ethnic Albanians fled from their homes following a recent Serbian offensive against Albanian militants. (AP)

the road between Suva Reka and Prizren in the southwest.

They were displaced by fighting earlier in the summer.

Around 20,000 people abandoned their homes in the area of Orasovac two weeks ago after the Kosovo Liberation Army tried unsuccessfully to capture their first major town. They fell back on Malisevo, a KLA stronghold for months, but were uprooted again when the guerrillas retreated.

More than 270 villages were shelled and at least 60,000 people uprooted from their homes by the offensive, Skelzen Maliki, an ethnic Albanian human rights leader, told Belgrade independent radio.

While Milosevic insisted that the broad, week-long thrust against the KLA was over, government forces continued to tighten the noose around the village of Junik, the main remaining rebel stronghold at the foot of the mountainous frontier

with Albania.

On the political front, the Yugoslav and Macedonian foreign ministers are to meet today. Both countries are concerned about growing support for Kosovo separatists among Macedonia's own Albanian population.

Tanjung reported earlier in the week that Yugoslav troops had clashed with a large group of "terrorists" — the agency's usual name for the KLA — on the Macedonian

border.

The KLA is fighting for independence for Kosovo, a province of the republic of Serbia within federal Yugoslavia. Kosovo's 1.8 million population is 90 percent ethnic Albanian.

At least 500 people have been killed and more than 150,000 displaced in five months of fighting in Kosovo following a decade of passive ethnic Albanian resistance to oppressive police rule by Belgrade.

Pakistan summons Indian envoy over Kashmir fighting

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's foreign ministry summoned the Indian envoy yesterday to protest an unleashing of mortars and artillery by Indian troops in the disputed territory of Kashmir that killed a reported 80 Pakistanis.

Indian Acting High Commissioner Sharat Sabharwal rejected the protest, an official at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad said on condition of anonymity. The official said that while he had no confirmation Indian troops had fired at all in

recent days, such firing in the past has been provoked by Pakistani firing.

In a press statement, the Pakistani foreign ministry accused India of "unprovoked and indiscriminate firing" along their disputed border, known as the line of control, that undermined "the prospects for a resumption of meaningful talks between Pakistan and India."

Increasingly bitter rhetoric has accompanied unrest along the border. Friday, as peace talks between

Indian and Pakistani leaders on the Indian Ocean island of Sri Lanka reached a deadlock, an Indian spokesman accused Pakistan of being "obsessive" and "neurotic" about Kashmir, and Pakistan charged that India was "rigid and inflexible."

Exchanges of mortar and gun fire are almost a daily occurrence, but casualties of the magnitude of the past week are rare. Last September, at least 39 people died in a similar outbreak of border tension.

German spelling reform comes into force

BONN (Reuters) — A controversial reform of the German language's complex spelling and grammar rules came into effect in Germany, Austria and Switzerland yesterday.

The reform, which will be taught in schools from the start of the new school year, removes many spelling irregularities and cuts the number of rules governing the use of the comma in written German

from 52 to just nine.

A remnant of Gothic lettering, the so-called "scharfes S" (ß), which is still used widely to represent a double "s," will in many cases be dropped.

The changes, agreed on at a conference in Vienna in 1996, have sparked a fierce debate among scholars and writers and prompted some parents to make legal challenges.

A transitional period up to 2005 has been set, during which old spelling forms will not be considered incorrect but merely "outdated."

The changes are not likely to be felt immediately by the majority of German-speaking people. Newspapers and other commercial organizations have said they will convert to the new forms by next summer at the earliest.

Testimony raises new questions over JFK autopsy

WASHINGTON (AP) — New testimony about the autopsy on John F. Kennedy says a second set of pictures was taken of Kennedy's wounds — pictures never made public.

The existence of additional photographs — believed taken by White House photographer Robert L. Knudsen during or after the autopsy at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland — raised new questions about how the autopsy was conducted, a subject of intense debate for 35 years.

But the new evidence sheds no light on the whereabouts of the second set of pictures.

Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963. The following year, a commission chaired by then-Chief Justice Earl Warren concluded the killer was Lee Harvey Oswald and that he acted alone and was not part of a conspiracy. That conclusion has been challenged ever since.

"One of the many tragedies of the assassination of President Kennedy has been the incompleteness of the autopsy record and the suspicion caused by the shroud of secrecy that has surrounded the records that do exist," said the Assassination Records Review Board, which made the new testimony public on Friday.

The board, created by Congress

to collect all pertinent records concerning Kennedy's murder, said the doctors who conducted the autopsy may have had the best of intentions — protecting the privacy of the Kennedy family. But "the legacy of such secrecy ultimately has caused distrust and suspicion," the board said.

One set of autopsy photographs, now at the National Archives, has been known to exist for years, and some of the pictures have been widely published. But the new testimony documents the existence of another set.

In 1997, the review board located Sandra K. Spencer, who worked at the Naval Photographic Center in 1963. She was shown the archives' autopsy photos and concluded they were not the pictures she had helped process.

Those she had worked with, she said, had "no blood or opening cavities." They were "quite reverent in how they handled it," she said.

She theorized that a second photographer took pictures of a cleaned-up corpse and speculated that was done at the request of the Kennedy family in case autopsy pictures had to be made public. "The only thing I can think of is that a second set of autopsy pictures was shot for public release, if necessary."

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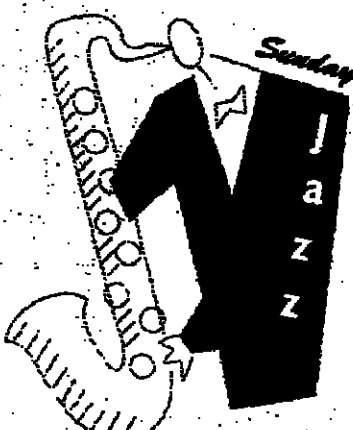
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מכון ליהדות

An Oscar for Bernstein



By David Isaacson

In 1962 the Oscar Peterson Trio went into the studio to see how Leonard Bernstein's modern classic *West Side Story* would sound as an improvised jazz piece.

WEST SIDE STORY
Oscar Peterson Trio
(Hollywood)

LIVE AT SCULLERS
Ray Brown Trio
(NYC)



Oscar Peterson's improvisations are so exquisite, his trio's swing so effortless and graceful, that the narrative gets lost in the music.

The trio - including bassist Ray Brown and drummer Ed Thigpen - is the finest unit the prolific Peterson ever put together. Its *Porgy & Bess* is considered one of the classic of the vast number of covers of Gershwin's jazz opera and, prior to the *West Side Story* sessions, it had gained experience by recording Broadway musicals with *My Fair Lady* and *Fiorello!*

But in January 1962, the trio hadn't played together for a while, and it had only two days in the studio. The band took six of Bernstein's 15 songs, eschewing those like "Cool" and "Gee Officer Krupke" which were probably considered too aggressive, musically if not thematically. The album won a Grammy. And, as you can hear on this Verve release, it is one of the greatest examples of both the art of the piano trio and of Peterson's popular light-swing style.

First up is, appropriately, "Something's Coming." Immediately, Brown's urgent strumming meets the song's portentous theme before Peterson takes over, first with a gorgeous improvised solo

and then, as bandleader, to lay down a characteristically crisp rhythm. The achingly pretty solo with which Peterson introduces "Somewhere" is faithful to both the original song's spirit and the pianist's own style. Brown's poignant bow registers the melancholia underpinning Maria's vision before Peterson's right-hand rolls give flight to her dream.

At nearly eight minutes, "Jet Song" gives Peterson plenty of room to get down. Utilizing everything from left-handed barrelhouse blues to lightning-fast glissandos, he gives this originally menacing, overwrought song the full swing treatment. You'd never know about the libretto's violence.

Conversely, the romance of "Tonight" is treated with all the heroine's playful joy. Natalie Wood is brought into sharp focus again by the Latin American beat - and Peterson's delicate sensitiv-

ity - on "Maria." But not for long, because Peterson's improvisations are so exquisite, the trio's swing so effortless and graceful, the narrative gets quite lost in the music. As for "I Feel Pretty," Peterson thrives on Bernstein's typical awkwardness: apparently the pianist's playing caused a sound engineer to speculate that one day his hand would fall off.

The closing "Reprise" presents a remarkable microcosm of the Broadway and Hollywood musical. It's a tribute to Bernstein's genius that a mere four notes can invoke a whole song-and-dance number. And Peterson's brilliant interpretations give vibrant new life to the color, drama and passion of New York's most tragic love story.

RAY BROWN opens his new live album with "Freddie Freeloader," thereby reaffirming the influence of its writer, Miles Davis. The

great trumpeter has assumed Duke Ellington's place as the writer of standards they love to play. (For example alto saxophonist Donald Harrison [who plays here this week] introduces his 1991 live set *For Art's Sake* with a cover of "So What," also taken from Davis's landmark *Kind of Blue*. And how many times have you heard aspiring or amateur bands cover "All Blues"?)

In addition to being Oscar Peterson's finest bassist, Brown is often cited as an influence by the new generation. *Live at Scullers*, recorded in 1996, reveals his all-round talent, whether he's slapping the notes down with left in a lead role or providing the rhythm behind a piano solo. His intro to a 10-minute "Bye Bye Blackbird" (which Davis also covered so beautifully) exemplifies his ability to set the tone before the pianist establishes the melody. The seven tracks are

well chosen, there's a soft, swinging cohesion to the disc and, marshaled by Brown, young lions Benny Green (piano) and drummer Gregory Hutchinson show why they're so highly regarded.

However, like so many highly talented sidemen who attempt to make it with groups of their own, Brown isn't a natural leader. (It's no coincidence that none of the tracks was written by Brown himself.) And neither is the bass an obvious first instrument. Mingus fans might disagree; bassist Christian McBride is currently one of jazz's hottest properties, and Israeli prodigies Omer Avital and Avishai Cohen are placing the bass at the center of their sound. But this requires real creative - as opposed to merely interpretive - inspiration, and that's where *Live at Scullers* falls short.

It sounds like a good rather than a great show.

The writer's second stab at 'Psycho'

By AMY WALLACE

The remake of Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 black-and-white horror classic *Psycho* has been shrouded in secrecy. Ever since Universal Pictures and Imagine Entertainment announced in March that Gus Van Sant would direct a modern version in color, film buffs have hungered for details, mostly in vain.

That's why Jeffrey Kitchen's recent screenwriting seminar at a West Hollywood hotel was such a treat. Kitchen, a writer and script doctor, invited Joseph Stefano, who wrote the original *Psycho* script, to speak. But instead of talking solely about the old script, Stefano talked at length about the new one - the version that Universal had recently hired him to update for Van Sant.

The 76-year-old writer - who has written several other films and was a creator of TV's *The Outer Limits* - revealed that the new *Psycho* (Vince Vaughn will reprise Anthony Perkins' role as Norman Bates, while Anne Heche will try to match Janet Leigh's Marion Crane) will have a new sensibility.

Below, excerpts of Stefano's remarks.

On how times change: "Van Sant's intention was to shoot [the remake] shot for shot and word for word [to match the original]. Then when we met it was clear that some things in the script would have to be changed. [For example], in the original movie there was some sense that being in a hotel room on your lunch hour was morally wrong. I didn't think that would fly today. And then some minor things, like increasing the amount of money that [Marion Crane] steals (from \$40,000 to \$400,000). And not being able to make a phone call for a dime today. Things like that."

"I felt that some of the talk of [Norman Bates'] mother - when you hear her calling him 'Boy' - I felt you had to be more subtle now. A mother calling her son 'Boy' and asking if he has any guts doesn't work today..."

"Janet Leigh was a big star who had been in pictures for almost 15 years at the time of *Psycho*. The whole point of casting her was because the audience would come unglued by the fact that Janet Leigh was supposedly dead 25 minutes into the movie. That's something that I don't think will work today. I don't think that anybody will go to the movies today and be shocked that somebody gets killed early in the movie. But in those days, the whole star system was part of our mentality and our sensibility. You just didn't go to see a movie starring Janet Leigh and [expect her to] get killed. Whether people will be surprised that Anne Heche is killed,

I kind of doubt. But a lot of young people will be seeing it for the first time - *Psycho* to them is a funny bit [he pantomimes a stabbing motion, evoking the film's famous shower scene] that is used in comics sometimes. So it may be a shock to them."

Casting: "I've made Sam [Crane's boyfriend, played in the original by John Gavin and in the remake by Viggo Mortensen] a little different in the new version - a little more... sexual. He was the only character in the [original] movie that I wasn't terribly pleased with: I felt he was almost being a little flippant at times... Maybe John Gavin had something to do with that tone. That happens sometimes. But it was in the script, or he wouldn't have been able to do it."

Playing on the Nerves: "My whole point was to make *Psycho* be about a young woman who is in a desperate situation. She wants to marry her boyfriend, who needs money, and so in a moment of madness, she steals \$40,000 and goes to give it to him - without even thinking. In the book [by Robert Bloch, from which the script was adapted], you just meet her - she comes into the hotel, you don't have any idea who she is and she gets murdered. I felt that was like a random killing and that it wouldn't really mean very much to the audience."

"The book began with Norman and his mother talking. There's no way you could have filmed that. Norman Bates in the book is in his 40s, an alcoholic. And he's kind of creepy. My feeling was that there would be no way I could get your loyalty to come to this type of character. So I suggested to Hitchcock that we make it a movie about this young woman. And then at a certain point, we would deprive you of her and then ask you to latch on to this kind of sympathetic young man who covers up for his mother's murders."

"My feeling about *Psycho* was I had two jobs. One was to make you love and mourn a wonderful young woman. The other was to make you feel sympathy and sorrow and friendship for the person who was the killer. I don't think audiences ever had any trouble doing that. It was Janet Leigh's movie, and then it was Tony Perkins' movie."

The Director: "I think [Van Sant] is the right person to [remake] it. The nightmare would be if some other directors I could name had done it who had been doing it, as a matter of fact, for most of their careers. That would worry me. Gus is oddly like Hitchcock just in his way: kind of reserved and yet friendly and forthcoming. There's a calm that Hitchcock had, too. He didn't seem to have a temperature that went up. (Los Angeles Times)

On Channel 1 tonight:

The scandal that rocked English soccer

By BARRY DAVIS

It's 1963, and English soccer still rules supreme in "the game we invented," as reporter Mike Gabbert puts it midway through Channel 1's British import *The Fix* (tonight, 9:30).

Right from the opening shot of row upon row of rickety-tilted terraced houses - so redolent of a northern England industrial town - *The Fix* is a fine example of a British period drama, in this case based on a true story.

The 1966 World Cup - a far cry from the recently concluded multimillion-dollar French extravaganza - is just around the corner, and Sheffield Wednesday's Tony Kay is everyone's bet for the No. 6 shirt on the England team.

The man certainly has the required skills on the pitch but, as he is transferred to much more glamorous championship contenders Everton for Britain's biggest-ever fee, he lays a bet on Wednesday losing their last match of the season...

As the plot thickens, and men behind the match-rigging syndicate enter the scene, Britain's

tabloid press scents a scandal.

Mike Gabbert is the young, typically brash, no-holds-barred back. His *Sunday People* colleague Peter Clamping (played by Michael "Boon" Elphick) is his older, more reserved and eminently more respectable foil. Gabbert knows nothing at all about soccer, while Clamping is a diehard Arsenal fan and a true lover of the game.

Thrown together to do some muck-raking on rumors of match rigging, Gabbert and Clamping are initially rejected, then used, by the soccer powers-that-be as the rain-coated dynamic duo set out on their quest "for the truth."

The fine line between moral and amoral practices is repeatedly drawn and redrawn throughout the story.

Are the English soccer authorities really interested in uncovering the truth? Should soccer players be criticized for trying to make a few bucks on the side, in a pre-Ronaldo era in which even top English players could not command more than a relatively low salary? (The maximum wage for British soccer players had only just been abolished.) Should a man - even a gift-



Two British tabloid journalists on the trail of a big story in 1963

ed professional - place his career before his family?

While Kay seeks success on the pitch - and on occasion with a nubile 15-year-old in the back seat of his Jag - the head of the match-rigging syndicate has his own ax to grind. He wants to wreak revenge on the game of soccer because,

having played for a pittance for a dozen years, he, like so many other players, was cast out without so much as a glimpse of a redundancy settlement.

Others are simply out to make a quick buck. Kay's wife - excellently played by Maggie O'Neill - just wants her husband and her

family to herself. Campling wants to do his nine-to-five job and pick up his wage packet, while Gabbert is out to achieve media glory - any Machiavellian way he can.

The Fix is certainly well-crafted in terms of aesthetics. Ne'er a crumbling red brick is misplaced, and the authentic-looking shops, street signs, and cars of the era are subtly yet prominently interwoven into a pictorial essay about the working man's England in the days when the Rolling Stones were just a wrinkle in the eyes of a few young rebels.

The script is leavened by a fair helping of earthy cynicism. When Clamping enlightens his ignorant colleague about a famous soccer player's professional achievements, and his ignominious end - he threw himself in front of a train - Gabbert replies that he hadn't heard about the man: "Someone else covers transport."

All in all, *The Fix* is a pleasant nostalgia trip for English soccer fans, while those who grew up in a different time or place could still probably enjoy the dry banter and the entertaining portrayal of tabloid sleaze.

Lilith Fair gives a wider voice to women

By ROGER CATLIN

A year ago, the summer-long Lilith Fair seemed a risk on the part of its organizer, Sarah McLachlan.

Her plan for a festival of all-female acts, to challenge the raft of Lollapalooza and H.O.R.D.E. fests at US amphitheaters, was scoffed at by some promoters who had previously suggested that she not try the public's patience with female acts by having a woman open for her shows.

"There were promoters hesitant to book the show, mainly because the promoters didn't have any relationship with us before," McLachlan says over the phone from Vancouver, British Columbia. There were other worries, too. "My album at that point hadn't come out, and I had all this new material to showcase," says McLachlan, at that time still a cult favorite who had never played before more than a few thousand people. "That part is often nerve-racking as well - especially when you're headlining a festival, playing a bunch of material nobody knows at the end of a long day of music, when people expect you to

rock basically or at least give them something they know."

They got to know her work right away. That album, *Surfacing*, made its debut at No. 2 and has since sold more than 3 million copies. It's still in the Top 40 after nearly a year, boosted most recently by her biggest hit single, "Adia," currently at No. 7 and climbing.

The Lilith Fair turned out to be the biggest money-making package tour in 1997, grossing \$16.7 million and exposing a large, appreciative audience for female-led folk and rock. The second edition of Lilith is the most anticipated tour of the season, at a time when H.O.R.D.E. is hurting in ticket sales and Lollapalooza pulled the plug altogether.

"I honestly didn't think in terms of monetary success in planning the show," McLachlan says. "I just thought it'd be stupid if people didn't come to this amazing show. I had a fair amount of confidence, as a music fan, that people would like the same stuff that I like." People did. And last year's festival helped boost the careers of Fiona Apple, Paula Cole and Shawn Colvin, who, like

McLachlan, turned out to be big Grammy winners earlier this year. No doubt about it, the first Lilith was fun for its founder. "It was a dream come true to be out there singing with Emmylou Harris, Tracy Chapman and Sheryl Crow - just hearing these voices every night that I respected and loved."

But not all of the rewarding parts happened on stage. Because \$1 of every ticket sold went to a local charity, McLachlan enjoyed handing over checks to overwhelmed local workers. "To see the women's faces, see them crying and saying this was what's going to keep their shelter open, it was great."

The audience Lilith drew was cool, too. "It was a very respectful crowd," she says. "People were really there for the music - more so than to get drunk or jump in the mosh pit." Booking this year's Lilith, McLachlan says, was "a lot easier" - not only with promoters who suddenly wanted to get in on the likely money-maker, but in attracting a wider range of artists who she says she always wanted in the first place. "The reputation of the tour had been built," she says. "Before, people hadn't heard of

me, or Lilith, and with a lot more success, a lot more artists were willing to come on."

Along with McLachlan on the main stage, other featured artists at some shows include Bonnie Raitt, Natalie Merchant, Me'Shell Ndegeocello, Tracy Bonham and Suzanne Vega. The number of dates for Lilith was expanded this year from 37 to 57, mainly to accommodate all the performers who wanted to get on board, she says. The number of artists who play the tour, from one date to 20, has increased from 81 to 120. Among the newcomers (on other tour stops), "Neneh Cherry was one of the biggest ones for me. She was one of the first women I thought of when I first started Lilith," McLachlan says.

Others included Sinéad O'Connor, Missy Elliott, "who I was really unfamiliar with eight months ago" and Erykah Badu, "who was busy doing the Smokin' Grooves tour last year, which was very well-suited for her." Lilith, she says, "is something I want to be universal - that can cross boundaries of radio classification."

Criticized last year not only for the lack of hip-hop and R&B but

also for omitting harder-rocking young women, McLachlan was happy to snare Liz Phair for several dates this year - extending her run when Crow decided to bow out, citing exhaustion. But McLachlan maintains she's not altering this year's roster to answer last year's criticism.

"I asked all the same people as last year for the most part," she says. "There's just not that many rock acts available out there." She said Courtney Love was doing a movie this summer. "We wanted her. Sleater-Kinney said no. Garbage is doing a European tour." But other acts, such as Ani DiFranco and Patti Smith, specifically declined, charging the event ghettoizes women artists in a narrow gender-defined category.

"I understand what they're saying," says Bonham. "But why waste your energy on putting these things down?" Lilith can do "the exact opposite, by bringing people into the limelight," she says. Bonham says last year's Lilith, "my first big tour, was a great experience. It was cool playing with other women. People like Sarah gave me advice I could really use." (The Hartford Courant)

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEK	WEEK	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	EYAL GOLAN	CHAYAL SHEIL AHAVA
#2	2	V/A	WOW
#3	3	V/A	HITMAN 9
#4	5	EMMA SHAPPLIN	CARMINE MEO
#5	8	BOAZ SHARABI	KESHEAT NOGA'AT BI
#6	10	DANA INTERNATIONAL	DIVA
#7	4	V/A	JUBILEE CELEBRATION
#8	11	ALABINA	ALABINA
#9	9	EYAL GOLAN	BELADAYICH
#10	14	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE IN CESARIA
#11	19	DANA BERGER	PASHUT LECHYOT
#12	21	O.S.T	BRUCHIM HABAM LE YISRAEL
#13	12	ETHANX	HELLO NASTY
#14	7	BEASTIE BOYS	HELLO NASTY
#15	13	BEN ARTZI	HAIM MISHAL ATZMI

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week.

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The Libi Fund is opening an Internet site this week.
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- ★ Purchase of rescue equipment and medical apparatus, for the rapid, effective treatment of IDF wounded.
- ★ Research and development of defense equipment.
- ★ Financing special driving courses for soldiers who have civilian driving licenses, with the aim of reducing accidents by soldiers on leave.
- ★ Any other purpose contributing to Israel's defense.

Anyone interested in receiving additional information on Libi Fund activities and aims can also do so by E-mail: Libifund@netvision.net.il

Lt.-Col. Sabin Segal, who is in charge of the Libi Fund site, will be happy to assist you.

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Alarm bells in Kashmir

If the world needed any reminding of the danger posed by the nuclear arms race in the Asian sub-continent, the renewed fighting between India and Pakistan over Kashmir should be sounding more alarm bells.

With at least 50 combatants reported dead and hundreds injured, the two states continued to accuse one another of unprovoked firing along the United Nations-controlled cease-fire line. It is unlikely that either side will accept blame for the clashes; neither has ever done so in past confrontations. It is all the more depressing that the fighting erupted while diplomats of the two countries were meeting for the first time since their nuclear tests shocked the world out of its post-Cold War complacency.

While religion and ethnicity form the basis for antagonism between India and Pakistan, the disputed Kashmir province is the very symbol and core of the dispute. It represents long-simmering Indian resentment at the partition of India during the independence struggle. On the Pakistani side, resentments are equally fierce over India's perceived arrogance and sense of superiority. While India has recognized Pakistan as an independent state, Pakistanis feel Hindus have never emotionally accepted either Islam's rights of expression or Pakistan's right to nationhood.

It is a cultural clash of historic perspectives tied to a dangerous territorial dispute - a classic recipe for conflict with which we are all too familiar in the Middle East. Now that both sides in the conflict have come out of the closet as nuclear powers, a new ingredient has been added to an already lethal brew. The need to

find some lasting solution to Indian-Pakistani antagonism should propel the Kashmir dispute to the top of the international agenda.

Kashmir has caused two wars between these major Asian powers since they went their separate ways when Britain withdrew in 1947. Pakistan is constantly accused of, and just as regularly denies, arming Kashmir's Moslem rebels who want either independence or integration into Pakistan. For India, the problem is that while the province of Jammu and Kashmir is its only Moslem majority state, it is existentially impossible for any New Delhi government to contemplate any more territorial concessions. Since Pakistan has never won a war against India, there is little reason in Indian eyes to accommodate any of its demands. With such entrenched positions and mutual resentment, nuclear volatility is the last thing that is needed.

Efforts to revive the peace talks between the two were doomed, not aided, by the addition of the nuclear dimension. The stalemate and intermittent clashes are set to continue, but after the nuclear tests, every escalation of tension is open to the most dangerous of misunderstandings or miscalculations. Since two poverty-stricken states have invested so much of their national assets and prestige in these weapons, neither has an inch to budge domestically.

India insists Kashmir is an internal problem and no business of Pakistan's. Pakistan insists it is the keystone of relations between the two states. While both remain stuck in their brittle political bunkers, the guns will keep booming in the Kashmir hills, and the world's last active nuclear time-bomb will keep ticking away.

Despair in Kosovo

The Yugoslav province of Kosovo has become Europe's latest equivalent of the Kashmir problem, though fortunately so far without an international clash involved. But that danger is never far away as the Serbs carry on their relentless war against the ethnic Albanians within its own borders.

The international huffing and puffing when the conflict erupted has fizzled to nothing, and the government in Belgrade knows it. Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has all but sold the world his line that this is a war against separatist terrorists.

In that he has been aided by the rag-tag Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which has destroyed any chance of outside intervention and sold out its own ethnic Albanian people by insisting that it is fighting a war of independence. As long as moderate ethnic Albanians in Kosovo were able to persuade the world that all they wanted was the return of the autonomy Milosevic took from them, they had a chance of winning solid support against what was perceived as another round of Serbian ethnic cleansing.

Once the KLA opted for all-out war rather

than seeking European mediation, it played into the legal and political reality of being in separatist rebellion against central government. This is not a cause that wins supporters in Europe. The KLA seriously miscalculated by taking on the superior and battle-experienced Serb forces rather than seeking European and American pressure on Milosevic to negotiate.

The lightly-armed guerrillas are being swept aside with ease and will soon be glad to talk, but with much reduced clout. There is little chance these poor and poorly-equipped rebels are ready for a winter campaign in the snow-bound hills of Kosovo.

The main hope of ending the conflict appears to be a growing realization by the Serbs that they too would be better off with some negotiated settlement to prevent a long guerrilla war. Milosevic, already one of the least liked or trusted statesmen in Europe, has little room for maneuver internationally. He can have little stomach for a protracted war in Kosovo, and international sanctions will still keep pressure on Serbia. This is therefore a window of opportunity for negotiations neither side can afford to miss.



Baseless hatred

DAVID WEINBERG

It's time to call our so-called leaders on the carpet for their sins of *sinat hinam* - the propagation of baseless and unnecessary hatred.

Here are 10 public figures that this Tisha Be'av could do with a dose of *teshuva* (repentance) for their inflammatory, intemperate, seditious demagoguery:

• Binyamin Netanyahu: Remember the prime minister's *tete-a-tete* with the kabbalist Rabbi Kadourie? "The Left has forgotten its Jewishness," the prime minister whispered in the aged rabbi's ear. This whopper of a collective slander never truly has been retracted. Mr. Prime Minister, Israeli society and polity would have been better off without this particular broadside. No need to stoop to such smearing in order to get a leg-up on the opposition.

• Ehud Barak: "Bibi is a liar" may resonate well, and sound good to the campaign consultants, but it is a slogan that drags our political discourse further down into the gutter. Mr. Barak, do you really have to portray the prime minister as a profligate liar in order to get across your party's message of hope and peace? The politics of defamation have been tried before in this country with disastrous and tragic results.

Beware. • Rabbi Ovadia Yosef: A master of the snide political witicism, this Torah giant has bound his sharp tongue to the fortunes of Shas, and unfortunately descended to street-level mudslinging. There is no way to justify his nasty remark that the Hebrew acronym "Mafdal" (the NRP) stands for "fools who believe anything." Or his aside about Netanyahu being "a blind sheep." The dignity that comes from study and observance of Torah would mandate a little more restraint.

• Yossi Sarid: An expert in political crudeness, Meretz leader Sarid leads the pack in the escalating character assassination of Netanyahu. Some recent beauties:

Bibi is *mastool* - high on drugs or other stupefying substances; Bibi is a "trickster, swindler, dissemler, charlatan and cheat" (these words rhymed in Hebrew). And to think that Sarid purports to be the voice of "enlightened" leadership! In any other democracy he'd be run out of public life for such rabid treatment of a political opponent.

• Ronni Milo: "The haredim are

Moderation, nuance, restraint and reasonableness are orphan concepts in this country's politics

coming to take over our homes, our shopping malls, our cafes, cinemas and beaches." This political charlatan warns us, running a base case campaign that smacks of pure opportunism. His platform reeks of raw anti-religious passion and exaggeration, without offering any realistic approaches to problem-solving which one might expect from a leader.

• Assi Dayan: Jerusalem is a "screwed-up" city (the actual term was vulgar), and Netanyahu should "go to hell." This was Dayan's educated, cultured contribution to a recent arts awards ceremony in Jerusalem. With arts figures of such sagacity and intellectual refinement, it's no wonder our politicians sometimes sound like barbarians.

• Gonen Ginit: The editor of *Hatzofeh* recently decided to give the haredim a taste of their own medicine, by lashing out vitriolically at haredi society and asserting that "half of all the prostitutes in Tel Aviv are Beit Ya'acov graduates." It's true that such wild viciousness is characteristic of the

haredi press on a daily basis, but let's not descend to their level.

• Tzahi Hanegbi: "Ehud barack" - Barak ran away (from Tze'elim, without concern for IDF wounded) was a classic political assault, brilliant in its simplicity and power to wound. In a normal democracy this acrid aspersion would have been beyond the pale. It's no wonder that there is no exact Hebrew translation for "civility" and "subtlety". We wouldn't know what to make of the words or how to apply them.

• Haim Miller: Every watcher of the evening news is alienated by brazen, in-your-face bullies like Agudah deputy mayor of Jerusalem, Rabbi Haim Miller or Labor MKs Dalia Izik and Ofer Pines. These political pit-bulls, each in their own way, convey a sneering arrogance and brutish absolutism that is antithetical to decent government and parliamentary courtesy. The NRP's Yigal Bibi doesn't quite merit mention in the same breath, but his unchecked attack on the courts sets a similarly bad example to the public.

• Ori Orr: Here's a guy who has trouble with more than half of the Israeli public, for whom Sephardi upbringing isn't cultured or "Israeli" enough.

Does one need a better example of *sinat hinam*? Once upon a time, we tended to chalk-up the rough talk to Israeli "character" and shrug it off. But the disgraceful level to which our mainstream politicians have sunk over the past year is alarming.

Moderation, nuance, restraint and reasonableness have become orphan concepts in this country's political landscape. The prevailing culture is *karah* - unbridled, untamed confrontation.

On Tisha Be'av it's worth remembering that a previous Jewish commonwealth disintegrated, our sages say, because everybody hated each other. And because leaders led the vulgarization of society, instead of preventing it.

A replacement Wall

YISRAEL MEDAD

speedily rebuilt in our times" approach, at least on the theological level. But still, even irrationally, no Jew (except those followers of the Leibowitz orientation), can deny the pull of Tisha Be'av at the Wall.

The Wall and what it represents has transcended its religious function and is one of the most powerful of nationalist symbols, uniting

The vast majority of Jews cannot even see past the Wall

Jews from all over, overcoming geographical, cultural and religious barriers.

BUT the Wall, physically and spiritually, is the closest we've come over these past three decades and more. The vast majority of Jews cannot even see past the Wall. Many do not even want to presume there is anything behind the Wall.

Astonishingly, one of the more outspoken persons on Jewish rights to Jerusalem and the Temple Mount has been Professor Abdul Hadi Palazzi, a Moslem theologian and imam from Rome. Israel's Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron came out rather aggressively last year against those Jews who seek to enter the Temple Mount compound despite the halachic complexities on the one hand, and the political ramifications on the other.

The secular political establish-

ment has ignored the issue, aided by a High Court of Justice which, in dozens of appeals, has repeatedly refused to assure basic civil and human rights as set out by the law of the land. For them, only Moslem sensitivity counts and above all, the status quo must be preserved. But that status quo, as has become evident, solely applies to the Jews.

In practice, the Temple Mount is not a Jewish holy shrine and the Ministry of Religious Affairs has no jurisdiction there. Jewish archaeological remains are defaced and covered over. The Jew is but a "visitor" there, with no special standing.

The 1994 peace treaty with the Hashemite Jordanian Kingdom assigns the monarchy "historic rights," rights that Jews cannot enjoy.

Last year, in a break of the status quo on the Mount, another mosque hall was inaugurated in the southern subterranean area, an area used by the mufti's gangs in the 1930s as a shooting range and 2,000 years ago as the main entrance route for the hundreds of thousands of Jewish pilgrims. Jews, meanwhile, are today denied even the right to utter psalms or other prayers there, even on an individual basis.

And so, on Tisha Be'av, there will again be mourning and even outright weeping at the Western Wall area. Unfortunately, most of the tears will be for all the wrong reasons. The Wall has replaced the Mount.

The writer is a Temple Mount activist, affiliated to the El Har Hashem Society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INEXCUSABLE ATTACK

Sir - In Bernard Wasserstein's opinion article, "Israel's new model army" (July 27), he manages to destroy his credibility despite the valid points he raises about a smaller, more professional IDF.

Wasserstein's blatant frothing at the mouth attack on haredi Jews is inexcusable, and during the nine days of Av, abhorrent.

To demonstrate his savvy social acumen, he asks, "Why this fuss about the conscription of [haredi] weedy, semi-educated youths, many of whom would in any case be physically and intellectually unfit to serve?"

If studying in a yeshiva seems one weedy, semi-educated, and intellectually unfit for the IDF, then can only religiously-challenged morons qualify to be the president of the Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies? (My sincerest apologies to the Oxford Center and its past presidents.) Wasserstein's invective is best answered by own final words, as his diatribe against haredi Jews, "...contributes exactly nothing."

YOSSI KLAVAN

Ginat Shomron.

ROWLAND'S ENTEBBE ROLE

Sir - I was surprised that your article concerning British businessman Tiny Rowland, "A great friend" (July 30), did not make any reference to his role in the Entebbe rescue.

As was revealed years later after the rescue, and indeed as was reported in Rowland's obituary in *The Times*, it was he, through his friendship with both Kenyan

President Moi and the deputy head of the Mossad, who personally obtained permission for the Israeli planes to land at Nairobi airport. As we now know this was a vital element in the success of the rescue mission.

JEFFREY GILBERT

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On August 2, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported a statement made to this newspaper by Auni Bey Abdel Hadi of the Arab Executive stating that the Palestine Arabs' policy was to deny recognition to the Mandatory Government. Abdel Hadi claimed that the Mandate had no existence in law because it had never been accepted by the Arab population.

50 years ago: On August 2,

1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the settlement and construction activities had proceeded full blast since the establishment of Israel. From May 15 to July 1, 1948, no fewer than 16 new settlements were founded in various parts of the country. Israel demanded reparations for the Arab aggression and rejected the plea for the return of the refugees. Dr. Bernard Joseph was appointed as Military Governor of Jerusalem.

25 years ago: On August 2, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that their security services tapped Israeli diplomat Yigal Eyal's telephone in connection with the killing of Ahmed Bouchiki on July 21. The Norwegian government stated that it would announce whether Eyal would be declared "persona non grata" in the very near future.

Alexander Zvielli

سورة من القرآن

Monica's World Wide Web

There are some 300 websites devoted to Lewinsky, ranging from those that promise illicit photos of her to one site that offers an Islamic viewpoint on the affair, Geoffrey C. Upton writes

Until Monica Lewinsky emerged Tuesday from weeks of obscurity, there wasn't much going on in front of her lawyers' office building at 1100 Connecticut Ave. N.W. For weeks, as she remained ensconced in California, news camera crews moved their stake-outs elsewhere, and life pretty much returned to normal. Yet throughout the lull, some of the most rabid Monica junkies managed to keep up hope of catching a glimpse of her by viewing the building via a "Monicacam" on the World Wide Web.

Roughly 500 times a day, someone visited the page - www.web-devs.com/monicacam - hoping against hope that Lewinsky might be back. The "Monicacam" is the online fan's best friend. It takes a snapshot of the building's entrance every 10 minutes between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. every day. The payoff? Assuming Lewinsky is in town and the timing is just right, she's in your sights.

Your good fortune is due to the digital camera that sits atop Scott Orr's computer in his third-floor office, directly across Connecticut Avenue. Orr, a Washington correspondent for New Jersey's *Newark Star-Ledger* newspaper, calls his surveillance a public service of sorts.

"I just found myself with this view," he says, "and I figured I'd might as well share it." By 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, with Lewinsky back in the news after completing an immunity deal with Kenneth W. Starr, traffic on the page had surged from a morning average of just 40 hits an hour to more than 300. And when Lewinsky at long last exited a cab in the middle of the street and hurried into her lawyers' building, uttering not a word to the assembled masses, Orr's camera caught the scene for all the Web to see.

When she walked out of the

cab, I was able to get her," Orr said. "You could even see that she was wearing a blue suit."

The Monicacam is just one of a multitude of Lewinsky pages that have sprung to life over the past six months - a crowd that, according to the online journal *Expo Terra*, now numbers about 300. There are so many Web pages devoted to Monica, in fact, that one - www.gomonica.com - now ranks the "Top 100 Monica Sites" (Monicacam has just moved into No. 1) and offers an all-Lewinsky search engine. Another site (www.bosdog.com/gold/awards/index.html) bestows "best in class" awards for humor, opinion, news, information and links.

Michael Erbschloe, editor of *Expo Terra*, says Lewinsky is second only to the late Princess Diana in the number of pages created in her honor. And, as with Diana, the degree of tastefulness ranges widely. Some online pornography distributors, for example, use Lewinsky's name and the promise of illicit photos of her to attract Web surfers to their pay-for-membership sites.

But for the serious student of l'affaire Lewinsky, there are pages such as Zippergate News (www.students.uiuc.edu/ritterbu/scandal.html), offering an archive of newspaper articles related to the scandal.

Perhaps the most unusual Web pages come from people like Orr - those who either "have a sense of humor, or nothing else to do," as Erbschloe puts it. They have created pages on everything from "The Islamic Viewpoint on the Lewinsky-Clinton 'affair'" to the "Clinton Lewinsky Scandal Fine Art Gallery," where the faces of Clinton and Lewinsky are superimposed on famous works of art.

Carol Baroudi, a Boston-based lecturer on technology and society and author of *The Internet for Dummies*, sees nothing worrisome for society about the hundreds of



Monica Lewinsky is second only to the late Princess Diana in the number of Web pages created in her honor. (AP)

Lewinsky Web pages. "Is this any crazier than the media coverage?" Baroudi said. "Is the Internet any more stupid than the rest of the press? I don't think so. The Internet works as a magnifier and an amplifier, and it amplifies the good and the bad."

But David Gelemer, a professor of computer science at Yale

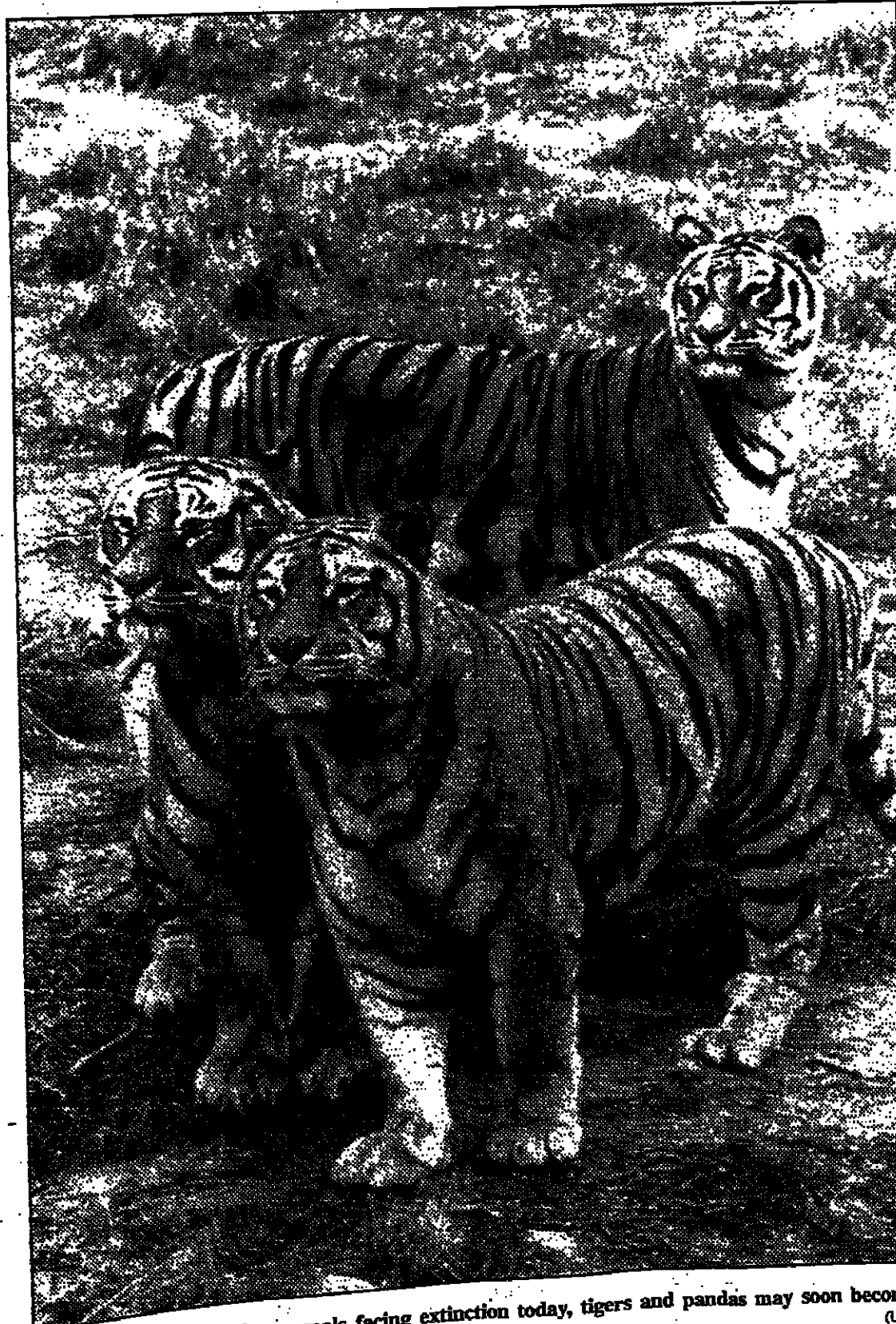
University and a frequent writer on culture and technology, takes a more jaundiced view. "We like to talk up new technology for high-minded reasons - TV was going to foster adult education, likewise home computers, and the Web has all sorts of elevated social purposes," he writes in an e-mail. "But game-playing is the biggest home-

computer (application), and shopping, pornography and gossip account for an awful lot of Web traffic."

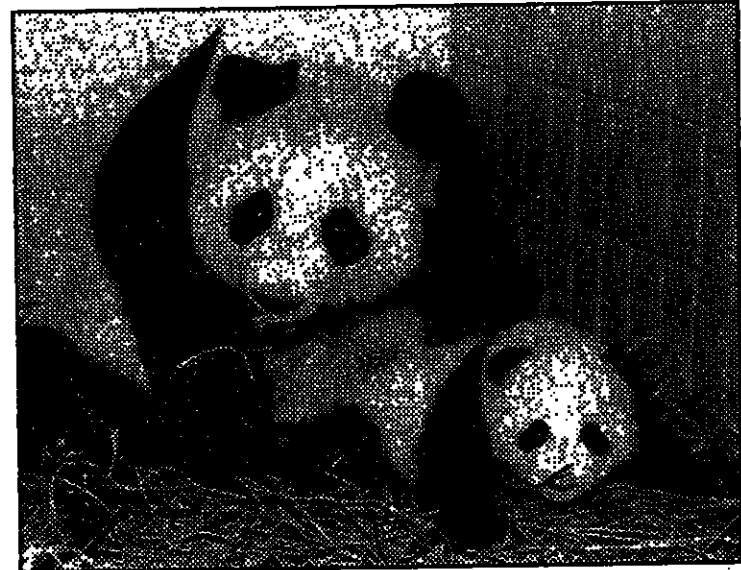
"Modern American culture has no dignity because it has no self-respect - it hates itself, with reason," he adds. "If it weren't so sad, it would be funny."

(The Baltimore Sun)

The threat of mass extinction



With 25 percent of all mammals facing extinction today, tigers and pandas may soon become species of the past. (UPI)



Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Not since the disappearance of the dinosaurs some 65 million years ago, have plants and animals on earth faced mass extinction as they do today. According to a recent study by Worldwatch, a Washington-based environmental think-tank, mammals, fish, birds and reptiles are all facing an unprecedented decline. John Tuxill, a Research Fellow at the Worldwatch Institute and author of the recently published *Losing Strands in the Web of Life: Vertebrate declines and the Conservation of Biological Diversity* says that "the main difference between the decline of vertebrates today and that of the dinosaurs is that we are not just the contemporaries of mass extinction but are the reason for it."

A survey of the status of animal life on earth published in 1996 by The World Conservation Union (IUCN) in collaboration with over 600 scientists, estimated that 25 percent of all mammal and amphibian species, 11 percent of all bird species, 20 percent of reptiles and 34 percent of fish species are in danger of extinction. Another 5 to 14 percent of species in this group are nearing a threatened state.

Plants, insects, snails and many other organisms are also disappearing. This vast array of species

forms what is called biodiversity, the rich basis for life that underpins everything from food production to essential medicines. There are so many species that as one researcher put it, "it's as if we burned down the library before we even got through cataloging the books, let alone read them."

Countless species are still waiting to be discovered and studied, some potentially useful, if not absolutely necessary to survival on this planet.

The leading cause of decline in animal life is the destruction of habitat. As the destruction of forests, wetlands, grasslands and chaparral expand, the available areas for wildlife diminish.

Over two-thirds of the earth's habitable land surface has been significantly disturbed by human activities.

Half of the world's 233 primate species are threatened with extinction and in areas like Madagascar, Southeast Asia and the Atlantic rain forests of Brazil about 70 percent of the primates face almost certain extinction.

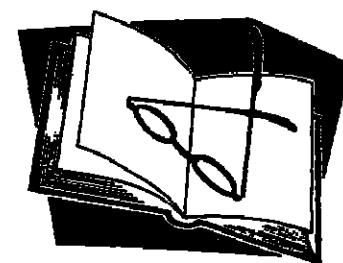
Underwater habitat loss is equally severe. Forty thousand large dams and hundreds of thousands of smaller barriers plug up the world's rivers, alter water temperatures and seasonal flow and destroy breeding grounds for fish. Already, 30 percent of the world's coral reefs are in critical condition from pollution, sedimentation and destructive fishing practices.

Many governments have tried to combat this trend by developing national parks and nature reserves, but this alone will not save the vanishing species.

Only an overall change in the way we view the use of resources can do that. Whether this will happen or not remains to be seen. It isn't yet too late to adopt sane policies - not for us. But for our children it may well be.

The young and the ambitious

Book Review



By Paul West

A NEW KIND OF PARTY ANIMAL: How the Young Are Tearing Up the American Political Landscape, by Michele Mitchell (Simon & Schuster, \$22, 224 pp.)

Today's young Americans are blazing paths through frontiers that didn't exist a generation ago. They're cutting deals in the emerging markets of the old Soviet empire. They're building an ever-expanding Internet.

They're zeroing in on a cure for cancer.

One place they're not wasting much time or energy is politics.

Why should they? America at the end of the century is all about peace and prosperity.

Radiohead on CD. Young people may be deeply involved in volunteer activities in their communities.

But who wants to climb the barricades to fight for expanded individual retirement accounts? For a few of the young and ambitious in this turned-off political age, however, Washington is still a magnet. One who made her way there in the early '90s, Michele Mitchell, has written an angry memoir about the political scene.

Her oddly titled but clever book argues that the boomer pundits and elderly politicians don't get it. They're missing the emergence of the most powerful new force in American politics.

Don't call them Gen-Xers, "that damn alphabet letter."

They're the 18-35 crowd. These techno-savvy 18-35s transcend the old, cynical politics. They care deeply about issues and don't belong to either political party.

Most important, they make up the largest potential voting bloc of all.

One could easily quibble with

her thesis. In a piece of generational one-upmanship - or envy - Mitchell has single-handedly manufactured this biggest of all blocs.

She sliced off the youngest batch of boomers and added them to her age group, on the grounds that those born in the early 1960s have little in common with their older brothers and sisters.

Her claim that "the young are tearing up the American political landscape" remains, at best, an untested theory. For one thing, young people don't vote. In the recent primary in California, home to the nation's most wired electorate, an anemic 8 percent of voters were in the 18-29 age bracket.

There's nothing new or unusual in this. Voter participation increases with age. And today's younger voters aren't "party animals" at all. Exit polls confirm that their ties to established political parties are extremely weak, as Mitchell herself points out.

Again, nothing revolutionary here. It's a trend that began many years ago. This book debunks stereotypes about 20- and 30-somethings, then proceeds to

reinforce many of them. What comes through, along with a fair amount of shallow thinking and misinformation, is an overly simplistic self-portrait of a diverse group of people as seen through the eyes of an old-fashioned striver bent on generational warfare.

Young people are free of the old prejudices about gender, in her view. They are "inherently media savvy." They cut their teeth watching TV, unlike "the bulk of social conservatives (whose childhood) culture consisted of radio and epics."

They reject the self-absorbed moralism of their boomer elders. They will use the Internet to transform politics.

Not trusting anyone over 35, Mitchell sounds very much like the dreamy '60s radicals she bitterly condemns. The phoniness of the last presidential campaign, she observes, was the last straw. "Nothing offered by the establishment was real anymore." Strawberry fields forever. (The Baltimore Sun)

HEROES OF ISRAEL

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Jonathan Netanyahu
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Yitzhak Rabin
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An e-mail service from Maxwell's daughter

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Are you, by any chance, related to...? is a question Isabel Maxwell frequently encounters at first meetings with strangers.

Yes, she is the daughter, one of seven surviving children, of Elizabeth and the late Robert Maxwell, the British publishing magnate who drowned near his yacht under suspicious circumstances in November 1991 and was buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

Isabel, while very proud of her father, made a name for herself in the mostly male field of Internet businesses on her own. She is now president of the American-Israeli company CommTouch.

"Dad taught me never to be afraid to aim high," she says. "I never worked for him, but I learned from him a very strong work ethic."

"Through him, I met all kinds of people - kings, presidents and prime ministers, but Dad used to say: 'They all use the same potty.' He taught me that you can always learn from a person," says Maxwell.

"The Maxwell name does help open doors; when people hear it, they may take a phone call instead of letting it go, but if you don't have a good product, they won't talk to you even if you're the Queen of Sheba," she adds.

CommTouch was founded in 1991 and develops e-mail applications. The company has grown in just a few years to become one of the world's pre-eminent vendors of electronic mail software products.

Its ProntoMail product won PC

Magazine's Product of the Year award for 1996, as well as earlier Editor's Choice awards from publications in the US and Japan.

Today, more than four million people worldwide are using ProntoMail through its distribution partners, which include Sun Microsystems, Cisco and Nippon Telephone & Telegraph. Among them are thousands of subscribers to JerusalemMail, the free Web-based e-mail service offered by The Jerusalem Post.

WHAT'S UNIQUE about CommTouch is that it caters to the needs of the company or organization offering the e-mail service rather than just building up its own name.

By comparison, Hotmail - recently purchased by Microsoft - has over eight million active e-mail users, but it focuses on building up its own client base. CommTouch, however, provides a vehicle for advancing corporate identity and needs; it forges partnerships with other corporations, offering them a vehicle for communicating with and extending their own client base.

Today, airlines, newspapers and a large variety of other companies want customers to "tune in" to their Internet site on a regular basis, so they offer them free and secure e-mail accounts. They can then go in to read and send e-mail easily from any Internet-linked computer anywhere in the world, not only from work or at home.

Advertisers cover the expenses of the free e-mail service, while the sponsoring company - with its customized, branded e-mail interface - enjoys customer loyalty (even making possible the build-

ing of a "community" of customers) and advertising exposure. Maxwell, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history and modern languages from Oxford University, manages all sales and marketing activities for CommTouch.

She also co-directs strategic business development with Gideon Mantel, the company's chief executive officer and a co-founder of CommTouch with its chairman of the board, Dr. Nahum Sharfman, a nuclear physicist who worked for 11 years at National Semiconductor.

Before joining CommTouch last December, Isabel founded The McKinley Group, which created the Magellan on-line search engine.

"I love mountains, and since Americans don't know about Mont Blanc, I chose McKinley," she recalls. During her tenure with McKinley, she led international business development and served as vice president for corporate affairs and investor relations. She oversaw the transition of McKinley to a full subsidiary of Excite, Inc.

Prior to founding McKinley, Maxwell was vice president for sales and marketing for Research on Demand, an international information brokering company in Berkeley, California.

BUT THE beginning of her career was entirely different. She spent 15 years in international journalism and entertainment, working in production and direction for the Yorkshire and Southern Independent Television networks in the UK and feature-film production for New World Pictures.

Maxwell has a keen sense for identifying trends years before they become obvious. She recognized the importance of Internet search engines long before these were popular, as well as the role of e-mail as a powerful means of communication around the world.

"It's been a wild ride on the Internet," says Maxwell, who drives for an hour every morning from her San Francisco home to the "asphalt jungle of Silicon Valley," in Sunnyvale, California, where CommTouch headquarters are located. "It's not for the faint-hearted."

The number of subscribers to e-mail services provided by companies through CommTouch is growing at a phenomenal rate of 100% per month, she says. According to estimates, there will be 170 million electronic mailboxes in North America alone by the year 2000 (with many people having more than one), and the number of Internet users is expected to grow from the current 35 million to 42 million in about 18 months.

Maxwell says CommTouch is the only company of its kind to offer a unique multimedia dual interface for kids and their parents; they can set down guidelines on permitted (white-list) or forbidden (black-list) incoming and outgoing mail; if a forbidden address is in contact with the child, the parent can censor it.

There are also "anti-spamming" features to reduce susceptibility to junk mail, preventing users from sending or receiving the same messages more than 20 times.

CommTouch produces e-mail systems in seven languages around the world, including

Japanese.

"The Post is a pioneering paper in this regard. There were teething pains for a while, including with JerusalemMail, but I feel we're now past them."

VERY CONSCIOUS of the fact that e-mail and Internet erase the boundary between work and home, Maxwell's days are very hectic.

The twice-married executive is up at 6 a.m., making calls to New York and Israel - the company's R&D facility is in Kibbutz Ein Vered - from seven to eight. She makes time on her schedule three times a week for a workout in a gym.

Then she drives to her office in Sunnyvale for meetings and other work. She receives an average of 100 e-mail messages a day and answers them all personally, she says.

She gets home at 7 or 8 p.m. to spend "quality time" with her 14-year-old son Alexander, and at 10 p.m., when the business day has begun in Israel, she's again sending e-mail and making calls.

She also travels abroad, and has been to Israel four times in the last 18 months.

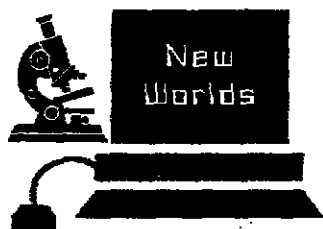
"The Israelis I work with are very energetic and creative, and they have a great work ethic. Their background in the army makes them willing to take risks and adapt to constantly changing conditions," she concludes.

"When I heard CommTouch had an Israeli connection, it had an influence on my decision to take the job. I felt a heart connection, but if it didn't have good products to market, I wouldn't have gotten involved."



Isabel Maxwell, daughter of the late publishing magnate, heads the American-Israeli hi-tech firm CommTouch.

Number of local surfers doubles



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

The number of Israeli Internet users has doubled during the past year, according to a recent survey by one of the providers, ISDN NET.

Contrary to the notion that it's kids who are clogging up the information superhighway, the poll found that 71% of all cyber-surfers are aged 25 to 55. And people over 55 who are on line, although only 6% of all "netizens," are rapidly increasing their share.

And employers will be happy to hear that most users (78%) prefer to cybersurf during their leisure time at home to enjoy privacy, rather than at work.

ISDN NET, a six-month-old Koor subsidiary, also provided some global Internet figures: Income from sales over the Internet ballooned from \$707 mil-

lion in 1996 to \$2.6 billion in 1997 - and this is expected to double in 1998 and reach \$37.5b. in 2002.

Global advertising on the Internet totalled \$906 million last year, but it too is expected to double or triple in 1998.

The most items most often advertised were computer software and hardware (33%), followed by 26% for ordinary household consumer items, financial services (11%), media services (11%) and telecommunications products and services (9%).

FILL 'ER UP WITH FAXES
Telephone customers will soon be able to pick up faxes accumulated in their cellular phone's voice mailbox at any of 50 Sonol petrol stations - the result of an agreement between Telephone and Sprint, which runs Sonol stations around the country.

There will be no extra monthly cost beyond the charge for the voice mailbox, Telephone said, plus the regular air time charge for sending and receiving faxes.

LIVE FROM THE MOON
NASA's Lunar Prospector is sending back to earth continuous, real-time science data from the moon.

The site, which has already been visited more than 75 million times, constitutes the first time science data and spacecraft telemetry information on the Internet is being sent back in real-time from a space mission orbiting another celestial body.

It can be accessed at <http://lunar.arc.nasa.gov> round the clock, and can handle up to 100 million computer "hits" daily.

Visitors should select the "DATAVIZ" button on the Web site, then click on "Science Data." After following directions, users can see spacecraft data in computer "windows" that remain visible even while other windows are open. By clicking on the "Location/Position" link, users can see archived pictures that represent the moon's surface immediately below the space vehicle.

Deputy Lunar Prospector mission manager Sylvia Cox told The Los Angeles Times that it took a year or two after most past missions for data to be released to the public.

"But now, with Prospector and many other new missions, we are releasing data at the same time the scientists see it," she noted.

Cox said the Web site audience is viewing actual data coming from the moon-orbiting space-

craft, along with NASA documentaries, short video clips, and hundreds of thousands of archived moon pictures from all previous lunar missions.

They can also see graphical satellite instrument readings indicating spacecraft "health," including antenna, battery, thruster, solar panel, and fuel tank readings.

Lunar Prospector is orbiting nearly 100 kilometers above the lunar surface on a year-long mission that began last January.

The compact spacecraft is mapping the surface composition, internal structure and volatile activity of the moon, as well as its magnetic and gravity fields.

DOCTORS' INFO IN HEBREW

Physicians can now subscribe to an on-line database service that translates medical journal abstracts into Hebrew.

Called MD Consult and located at www.iol.co.il/medic, the database contains summaries from 44 major medical journals, 450 surveys and guidelines and full information on 45,000 medications.

Instead of sifting through medical journals from libraries, MD Consult saves them time, updating them in fields of professional interest.



How do female fish find the right males?

(Lisa Pleskow)

Love across a crowded aquarium

By ROGER SEGELKEN

It's a problem faced by people attending noisy parties: How to cut through the racket and find Mr. or Ms. Right?

Now Cornell University biologists, who became underwater disc jockeys to study a homely fish that hums, say they have a clue as to how mate selection works.

The auditory portion of the mid-brain uses the acoustic qualities of all the noise to isolate one signal it is programmed to recognize as potentially interesting.

So far, the biologists' research applies only to a species called midshipman fish, but it could also be relevant to people, they say.

"Neuroscientists call this auditory scene analysis," says Andrew Bass, Cornell professor of neurobiology and behavior who presented his group's findings in June at an international acoustics in Seattle. "It's really very similar to the cocktail party effect."

In a way, midshipman fish have more problems than people at loud parties. Only some of the male midshipman hum, and those males are hiding in cavity-like nests they have excavated under rocks.

All the humming males together sound like a huge beehive or a squadron of motor boats, and a female midshipman fish has to choose one nest in which to deposit her eggs.

When a humming male succeeds in attracting a female, he fertilizes her eggs, which adhere to the rocky ceiling of his nest. The female leaves forever, and the male resumes humming in hopes of attracting another female with more eggs.

They're called midshipman fish because some varieties of *Porichthys notatus* have bioluminescent spots that resemble rows of uniform buttons (they are also known as California singing fish and canary bird fish).

Females probably aren't attracted to the uniform, but rather to the male's song.

WHEN MIDSHIPMEN migrate from the deep Pacific waters to the west coast of North America to mate each summer, the intertidal zone becomes a noisy place, as courting males hum to attract egg-laying females.

The love song, described as a motorboat-like drone, comes from rapidly contracting muscles on the male's swim bladder and proves irresistible to female midshipman. Each female deposits all her eggs for that season in one nest and swims away.

Hoping to lure more females to the nest, the male resumes singing, all the while remaining on guard until the offspring hatch and mature.

Wondering how the female fish find the right males, the Cornell biologists examined the structure and function of midshipman brains.

From earlier studies with Robert Baker at the New York University Medical School, Bass knew that a part of the midshipman male brain, called the hindbrain, contains neurons that constitute a kind of vocal pacemaker.

Like a rhythm generator, the pacemaker tells the sound-generating muscles on the male's swim bladder to contract rhythmically and produce a hum averaging 100 Hz in frequency.

Only certain fish species are capable of vocalizing, but virtually all fish have ears to keep them in tune with their sound-filled environment.

Cornell biologists who conduct acoustic playback experiments with midshipman fish in outdoor aquariums report that female midshipman are easily attracted to their computer-synthesized hums. But simulated grunts, they say, "seem to do nothing for the females."

In part of the midshipman female brain known as the mid-

brain (and humans have mid-brains and hindbrains, too), Baker and Bass found neurons that respond to a 100-Hz hum.

Whenever the hums of two neighboring and competing males overlap, the Cornell biologists observed, the sounds form what is known as an acoustic beat. And because the tone of a midshipman's hum is so pure and simple, computer synthesizers can easily reproduce it.

That's why the biologists were able to play disc jockey at a fish party, complete with underwater loudspeakers.

"Just as we expected, two or more synthesized fish hums played together produce the rhythmic, acoustic beats," Bass reports. "And sure enough, the females were able to directly localize one of the humming speakers."

"Their midbrain neurons form a code of the beats that helps in their calculations to locate the hum of interest from all the rest."

The brain side of the story recently was reported in the *Journal of Neuroscience* by Bass and by Deana Bodnar, a Cornell senior research associate in neurobiology and behavior.

Meanwhile, field experiments on midshipman fish along the California and Washington state coasts continue. These teams use underwater microphones called hydrophones to eavesdrop on fish "gossip" at night.

Together, the Cornell scientists hope to learn how courtship signals are encoded in the brain and what it is about one love hum that makes it more attractive than another.

"Midshipman are regarded as some of the ugliest fish in the sea and a nuisance because they hum almost incessantly," Bass comments. "But they have thrived for hundreds of thousands of years, so they must be doing something right."

"We'd like to find out what," (Cornell University News Service)

Turning over a new leaf

By SYLVIA WRIGHT

The bees will be upset, as will the florists. Scientists at the University of California at Davis have managed to sprout embryos of transgenic plants on leaves rather than via their blossoms.

This novel feat, they say, could lead to valuable innovations in food crops.

The biologists first isolated LEC1, a widely sought gene believed to be key to seed development. Then they engineered plants that would put the gene to work much earlier than usual in the plant's life cycle.

One result of the gene's rescheduled activity was particularly striking: Some leaf surfaces sprouted tiny clusters of glove-shaped, embryonic tissue. And some of those embryos, while still attached to the leaf surfaces, even grew roots.

The new research, described in a recent issue of the *Journal of Cell*, was the work of researchers in the laboratory of UC Davis plant biologist John Harada and collaborators at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of California at Los Angeles. It was led by Tamar Lotan, a post-doctoral researcher with Harada.

"The discovery of LEC1 is very exciting," said Terry Thomas, a plant biologist at Texas A&M University, who was not involved in the study. "It's an important step toward understanding the complex problems of seed development."

Harada said LEC1 will be useful in figuring out the coordination between the early, tissue-building stage of embryo development and the late, seed-maturing stage.

"The LEC1 gene is teaching us a great deal, and the research also has implications for some impor-

tant applications."

For instance, making LEC1 function in a plant's leaves could revolutionize the production of oils and proteins from corn, canola (rapeseed) and soybeans - essential food supplies for people and livestock.

"Mature seeds contain lots of those oils and proteins. They nourish the developing plant in the period after the seed germinates and before photosynthesis begins," Harada said. "Traditionally, we've had to wait for those products a long time - until the plant matures, blooms and sets seed."

"But there may be advantages to engineering a plant that produces them in its vegetation," he said. Imagine, for example, grinding corn leaves instead of corn kernels for cooking oil.

ANOTHER possibility is that plant embryos might be raised in leaf-tissue nurseries to solve a long-standing problem in agriculture: how to more efficiently produce plants with the qualities and vigor that are now achieved only by cross-breeding, or hybridization.

For many crops, hybrid seed is generated by crossing different elite lines, each selected for desired traits. However, these hybrid offspring don't consistently pass those qualities down to their offspring.

But embryo farming could produce "artificial seeds" that would all be clones of the hybrid parent and perpetuate its strengths, said Harada.

"If the LEC1 gene paves the way to the development of seeds without fertilization, it would have enormous potential," Goldberg said.



Scientists succeeded in sprouting embryos from leaves rather than blossoms of plants.

(David Brumber)

hybrid generation after generation. That would provide a new strategy for significantly increased yields in food and fiber production."

Harada stresses that those are all applications that might become possible, but haven't yet.

"The results in this study were promising, but technically difficult to achieve," he said.

To wit: Of 7,000 seeds with the engineered LEC1 gene, only about 40 germinated. Ten of those seedlings grew stems and leaves and bloomed; seven set seed. Offspring from two of these plants had embryo-like structures on their leaves.

Next, the LEC1 researchers will explore the activities of the gene inside plant cells.

The *Cell* paper establishes LEC1 (named for a mutation that affects a sprout's first leaves, called cotyledons) as an important regulatory gene, one that turns other genes on or off.

Now the group wants to find out what those other genes are and what they do and hope to show how LEC1's protein product interacts with other proteins to assemble seeds.

"We don't know that this work will definitely lead to applied uses," Harada said. "But if it does, it will be another example where beneficial applications come out of basic research - in this case, basic research into plant embryogenesis and how it's regulated." (University of California News Service)

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Innovative technique gives stutterers the gift of free speech

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Stuttering didn't hold back Moses — but he had his brother Aaron at his side to serve as his spokesman.

Most people with such a speech defect suffer great embarrassment and anxiety, especially when dealing with strangers. For them speaking becomes a vicious cycle: The more nervous they are, the more they stutter, and the more they stutter, the more nervous they become.

Various techniques have been developed over the years to treat this condition, which affects up to 4 percent of young children, and stays with 1 percent of all adults — four times more often in men than women.

But most of these approaches require people to speak more slowly and rehearse in their minds what they want to say — relieving the symptoms, but not getting to the root of the problem.

Barbara Dahm, an Israeli since 1974 who has a bachelor's and master's degree in speech pathology from Boston University, has developed a comprehensive speech-processing approach based on her observations of hundreds of stutterers. She is licensed by the Health Ministry and certified by the American Speech and Hearing Association.

Working from her private clinic, the Communication Therapy Institute in Kfar Smaryahu, she has over the past 11 years helped many patients clients transform their stuttering into fluent speech.

Although she began to work in speech pathology 30 years ago, she dealt with a wide variety of communications problems, and not just

stuttering.

But then she met "Jane," to whom she dedicates her massive (300-page) *Clinician's Guide: Generating Fluent Speech*, and the nearly-as-massive *Client Manual*.

"To Jane," she writes, "the young woman whose pain awoke in me the determination to find an effective way to treat people who stutter, and to all people who stutter who have the right to free and easy speech."

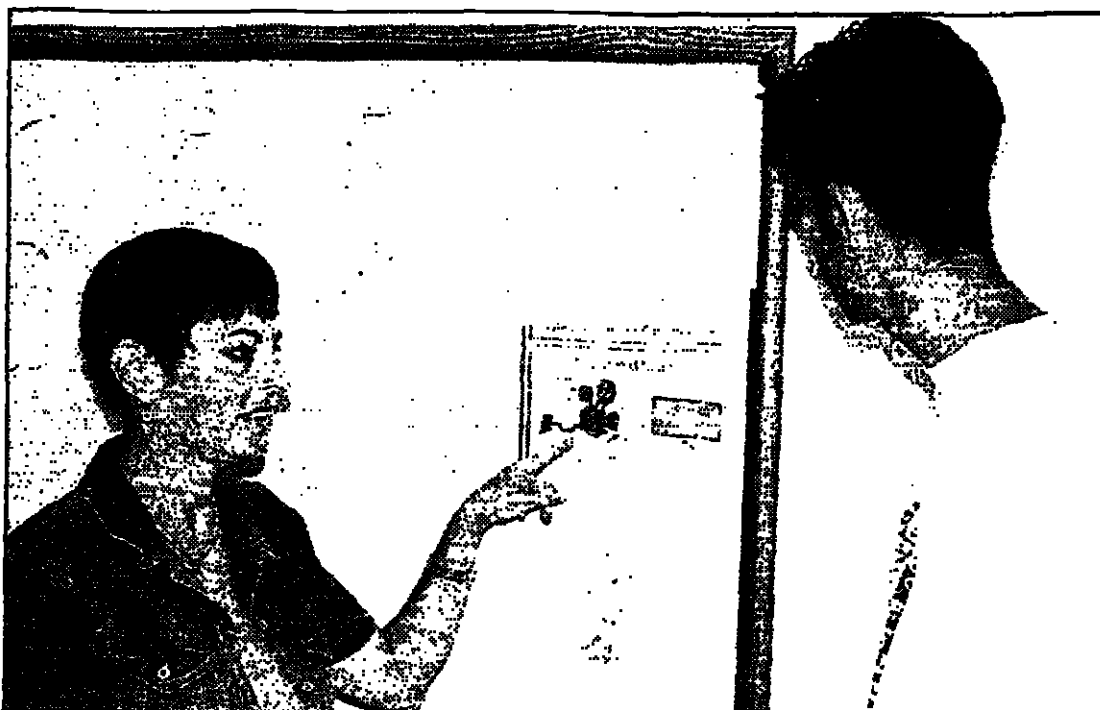
EAGER to help her clients, Dahm went to the US in 1987 and met Prof. Ronald Webster, an expert in behavior modification, who had pioneered the use of a voice monitoring device to treat stuttering.

"I used it for a couple of years. It was better than anything else, but it made them speak in a monotone rather than in a natural voice and required them to pay too much attention to their breathing," she recalls.

Studying a large number of clients and how they spoke, and comparing it with how she herself produced speech, Dahm taught herself to do what stutterers did.

She reached the conclusion that it was "the process that a person uses when he speaks that is incorrect — not the vocal cords or that the brain isn't capable. The person uses a different internal program — 'software' as it were — that has to be fixed."

"You have to treat the whole system, not one part. Stutterers try to remedy their situation by making their mouth form sounds, instead of moving the vocal folds [vocal cords] as a foundation for speech and then having the mouth formulate the sound while pronouncing words."



Speech therapist Barbara Dahm taught herself to stutter in order to understand the dynamics of impaired speech.

"Shaping your mouth before you sound out words is very difficult. It involves putting too much control on speaking, but the stutterer thinks he's not using enough control."

People don't suddenly start stuttering, Dahm continues, unless they've suffered brain damage or been in an accident. Young children can start speaking normally and then begin to stutter, this can happen up to adolescence.

As a byproduct of their speech impediment, some develop physiological and psychological problems, including fear, lack of confi-

dence, headaches and distortions of eye movements.

"No one knows the cause of stuttering, but there are various hypotheses: some claim stutterers are afraid to speak and express their thoughts. PET [positron emission tomography] scans have been conducted and shown different brain functioning in stutterers than in non-stutterers."

"Some people say their child started stuttering after they got divorced, or moved to another country or city, but they don't mention the possible genetic link that

causes stuttering to run in families."

WHATEVER the cause, the Dahm technique — exercised intensively over a period of three weeks, six hours a day — "teaches people how to produce speech by doing what everybody else does, eliminating excessive controls. They learn to use a natural voice and not contract other muscles in the throat."

"People think they have to push air out when speaking, but they really have to vibrate their vocal folds in the larynx nearly effortlessly."

There is also a six-month follow-up period, with monthly sessions, phone conversations and the use of audio and video cassettes. The technique has proved so helpful that Dahm is teaching it to other speech pathologists in Kiryat Gat and has lectured about it widely around the world.

Video films of stutterers she has treated show that in their initial lessons, they're unable to make a simple sound from their vocal folds without tightening up everything else.

The vocal folds not only produce sound; they also help regulate the amount of air flowing through the respiratory system and close off the air pathway to prevent foreign matter from getting into the lungs.

When a person wants to speak, the vocal folds vibrate at about 150 times per second in the adult male and a slightly higher rate in women and children. When speaking, the vocal folds must be free of all the other functions so they can vibrate freely, Dahm explains.

Once voicing (which naturally has a buzz-like quality) is produced by the vocal folds, it then has to be shaped into speech sounds in the mouth cavity: the articulators — the lips, tongue and jaw — form different positions to produce a variety of vocal sounds.

Voice is produced only during exhaling, but the diaphragm must be relaxed to produce normal speech.

Putting her hand on the client's chin or chest, she can know whether they're using the "wrong equipment" to speak. The lessons are done individually, but there are also some group discussions.

No "punishments" are given, Dahm says, but clients are asked to grade their performances at the end of each day.

MANY children who stutter are "persecuted in school," by their peers if not by their teachers. The earlier a stutterer begins therapy, Dahm says, the better.

"But I wouldn't accept someone who hasn't been stuttering for at least half a year. Most clients are young, but some are much older — one man was even in his 70s — and they've tried everything to stop stuttering, including taking pills, undergoing hypnosis and getting blessings from rabbis." She accepts clients from age nine.

The cost of participation is NIS 8,200. Despite the serious financial problems of the health funds, all of them subsidize the treatments to some degree: Clalit and Meuhedet pay 40%, Maccabi 20% and Leumit 50%.

"In the US, health maintenance organizations are very reluctant to pay for stuttering therapy at all," she notes.

She has had many memorable cases, but she picks out a few examples, such as a young Orthodox woman who always dreamed of being a teacher, because of her severe speech impediment, she worked as a seamstress. After recovering, she went to study at a teachers' seminary.

Another was a 12-year-old boy who was so confident that he agreed to speak about his experiences on TV, while a third was an insurance man whose career blossomed after his speech became normal and he was even able to address a group of hundreds of people.

Africa adopts female condom

By ROBIN HERMAN

When the female condom debuted in the US four years ago under the sobering name "Reality," there were jokes and embarrassed laughter in the pages of women's magazines and other media.

Critics objected primarily to the condom's aesthetics — the way the tubular, polyurethane sheath looked and sounded ("squeaky") when in use. Men were quoted as saying it was like having sex with a sandwich bag. Reality made hardly a dent in the US contraceptive market.

But in the developing world, the United Nations' AIDS program has recently turned to the female condom with utmost seriousness because it not only prevents pregnancy but can also prevent deadly disease.

As a barrier method of contraception, like the male condom, it screens out microorganisms carried in semen, blood and vaginal fluids, protecting against a range of sexually transmitted diseases, from hepatitis B and gonorrhea to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

Under a new UNAIDS program to promote the female condom, the cost has been lowered and African nations this year have bought millions of the devices in hopes of slowing the spread of the AIDS virus that is devastating their populations.

The government of South Africa recently purchased 1.5 million female condoms; Uganda bought 1.2 million; Zambia and Zimbabwe have also made substantial purchases. A volume discount from the manufacturer negotiated by UNAIDS brings the price per condom down to under a dollar, compared with a US retail price of about \$2.50.

"Everyone thought we were a gimmick," said Mary Ann Leeper, president of Female Health, the Chicago company that manufactures Reality. "The media made a joke of it, and everyone forgot what it was doing. It's saving lives."

She spoke recently at a UN-sponsored conference in Pretoria that drew representatives from 15 countries of southern and eastern Africa.

"Here you're talking about a crying need," said Leeper. "In Botswana, 20 percent of the sexually active population has AIDS. It's beyond comprehension. They're all dying. The average lifespan was 65; now it's down in the low 40s, and the ones dying are the young people. The life of the country is being squeezed."

While the male condom has been encouraged for years as an AIDS-preventing contraceptive, it has been stubbornly rejected by a large segment of sexually active adults. Public health officials find that when the female condom is offered as an option along with the male condom, more people act to protect themselves. The female condom does not replace the male condom — it reaches a different set of couples.

Persuasive evidence comes from a 1997 study of female sex workers in Thailand. Among women who were given access to both

male and female condoms, the average incidence rate of sexually transmitted diseases decreased by 34 percent, and the number of unprotected sex acts decreased by 25 percent compared with a group of women who had only male condoms as an option.

The female condom is a prelubricated, disposable polyurethane sheath that is inserted by the woman into the vaginal canal before intercourse. It has a flexible ring inside the closed end that serves as an insertion mechanism and as an internal anchor around the cervix, much like the contraceptive diaphragm. Another ring at the wider, open end forms the external edge of the sheath. It is meant to be used just once, and when used correctly, according to the manufacturer, the female condom will prevent pregnancy in 95 percent of users over the course of a year.

Public health officials say the female condom is a practical option because it is a relatively simple device that can be used without a prescription or medical supervision. It is easy to store and is not affected by temperature or humidity.

The joking about the female condom "was a reaction of people essentially in America," said Maxine Ankrah, a Ugandan who has worked on AIDS-prevention projects directed by Family Health International, a nongovernmental organization.

"I have never in the developing countries met such a reaction. In America and other developed countries there are other choices and not so many threats."

The threat of sexually transmitted disease is especially high for women, she pointed out. While AIDS appeared initially among people who engaged in high-risk unprotected homosexual sex, commercial sex or intravenous drug use, the epidemic has spread rapidly to other groups of people.

"In Uganda, as in Africa as a whole, for every five men infected there are six women infected," said Ankrah, "and women are infected at a much younger age, and they are usually infected by older men. The most infected group is the 20 to 30-year-olds."

Cultural expectations, economic dependence and fear of violence often make it impossible for many women to negotiate protected sexual relations with their partners from whom they are catching the disease.

Leeper remains frustrated over the female condom's lack of acceptance among US women.

"I thought this will address the issue of empowerment of women," she said. "What I found in the US, women don't want to be empowered in the bedroom. In the bedroom, yes, but in the bedroom they don't want to jeopardize having sex with that man."

"In developing countries, they know they're at risk," she continued. "They want to have healthy babies; they want to have a healthy family, and they can't do that if they're sick. They're very family-oriented. But in certain countries, a woman just can't ask the man to wear a male condom." (The Washington Post)

The bitter pill diet of the AIDS patient

By DANIEL Q. HANEY

Imagine what it would be like to have a deadly infection, with your life depending entirely on how faithfully you swallow 15 to 20 pills every day and night, no matter where you are or what else you are doing. Forever.

With one, you must gulp a liter of water. Others require you have a full stomach. For still others, you wait until your stomach is empty. All on a precise schedule every eight hours. Without fail. Miss just a few, and you may sicken and die.

The AIDS "cocktail" of protease inhibitors was initially hailed as a miraculous breakthrough that gave years of life to people who'd previously had no hope. Now doctors refer to "the pill burden" and say the near impossibility of sticking unflinchingly to the complicated medical regimen is emerging as the single biggest problem in treating AIDS.

When doctors last gathered for an international AIDS meeting in Vancouver in 1996, the news about AIDS drugs was good: They had a treatment at last — an incredibly powerful combination of pills that could rescue AIDS patients from the brink of death. The enthusiasm was well-placed. Deaths from the disease have fallen by 50 percent in each of the two years since.

But at the recent World AIDS

Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, the euphoria has been deflated by another realization: Many are failing therapy because their medicines are just too hard to take without an occasional lapse.

"How can you expect people to take all those pills, day after day, for years?" asked Dr. Bernard Hirschel of the Geneva Cantonal University Hospital, the conference chairman. "As a practicing physician, I can tell you it's a serious problem."

A study presented at the conference by Dr. Ailyn Nakashima of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveyed 1,274 patients in 12 states. Two-thirds said they "always" take their medicines as prescribed. But this fell off over time.

After two years of treatment, just over half were still taking them as ordered. In another study of 248 patients in five US cities, only 21 percent had not missed a dose.

"Treatment adherence has been described — aptly — as the Achilles heel" of AIDS treatment, said Bill



The "miracle cocktail" for AIDS sufferers entails taking 15 to 20 pills daily every eight hours; miss a few and it could mean death.

Whittaker of the group People Living With AIDS in New South Wales, Australia. Dr. Julio Montaner, who runs the AIDS treatment program in British Columbia, Canada, put it even more strongly. "Compliance," he said, "is the most important threat to the long-term efficacy of the treatments we now have."

The consequences of missing pills are grave. Skipping even a few doses allows the virus to mutate into forms that are resistant to protease inhibitors, the key ingredient of the combinations. When that happens, the medicines

are worthless and can do nothing to stop AIDS.

Montaner estimates that 30% to 50% of people who initially respond to treatment are considered drug failures after a year. Their virus levels rise slowly, and even though they still feel well, doctors worry their virus will eventually resume its inexorable destruction. "Over 90 percent of these cases are explained by adherence issues," he said.

The easy emergence of resistant viruses may have consequences for others, as well. Doctors fear the viruses will pass from person to person, creating an outbreak of untreatable AIDS.

But the conference also brought reports of the successful testing of two AIDS drugs that would reduce the total number of pills people must take.

These medicines — DuPont Pharmaceuticals' Sustiva and Glaxo Wellcome's Zidgen — would require a total of five or six pills taken twice a day. Neither is approved yet for sale. Drug com-

panies are also working to make medicines less sensitive to eating habits and to reduce the frequency of doses.

Most people miss their doses for the obvious reason, the CDC survey found. They forget to take them. Other common excuses were difficulty working them into daily schedules and unpleasant side effects.

Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr of Harlem Hospital Center in New York City told of a 36-year-old patient named Rochelle, a once homeless drug addict.

"She calls often, just to renew her determination to take these many medications," El-Sadr said.

Doctors say educating patients about their pill-taking schedule is now an important part of their jobs. Some urge patients to practice with jelly beans for a few days before starting the pills. Some patients have computerized pill bottles that beep when it's time for a new dose. Others use the buddy system — friends call and remind each other. Because the regimen is so difficult, doctors are often reluctant to prescribe the drugs to people who seem poor risks, such as drug addicts and the homeless. However, busy middle-class patients, such as business executives and even doctors, have trouble sticking to schedules, too. (Associated Press)

Smoke gets in your ears

Health Scan



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Smokers face nearly twice the risk of developing hearing loss as do nonsmokers, according to a University of Wisconsin study of 4,000 people aged 48 to 92. The researchers also found that people exposed regularly to passive cigarette smoke have an increased risk of hearing loss.

Several previous studies have suggested a link between hearing loss and smoking, but this retrospective study is one of the first to document the trend in a large group of people.

Researchers contacted all residents in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, who fit the age group. Volunteers underwent a battery of hearing tests and answered questions about their smoking history, environmental exposure to cigarette smoke as well as occupational exposure to loud noises that could also contribute to hearing loss. The results were reported recently in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Current smokers — even people who had no occupational history of exposure to noise — were found to be 1.7 times as likely to have hearing loss as nonsmokers.

The researchers are uncertain what is behind the connection, but they theorized that smoking reduces the blood flow to the ear, thereby

heightening the hearing loss that often occurs with aging. Smoking may also interfere with the chemicals important to the maintenance of optimal hearing.

Hearing loss is one of the leading disabilities of old age, afflicting nearly a third of those aged 65 to 75; if further studies confirm the link, giving up smoking could prevent or delay age-related hearing deterioration.

FOREIGN WORKERS' HEALTH

Visits to emergency rooms by foreign workers have increased dramatically — from about 7,000 in 1996 to 10,700 last year — according to Health Ministry estimates.

Public hospitals — most of them in the Dan Region — absorbed NIS 7 million last year in unpaid debts by foreign workers, both legal and illegal, who underwent treatment in emergency rooms. About NIS 8.7 million was paid by the patients.

Legal workers have private health insurance policies taken out by their employers, but according to the Israel Physicians for Human Rights organization, which has set up a voluntary clinic for foreign workers in Tel Aviv, their coverage is minimal.

Most policies cover only the cost of visits to a clinic doctor but not hospitalization or most tests; if a foreign worker needs surgery, he is given a ticket home.

Illegal workers have no coverage, like the families of legal workers. The Health Ministry said it is "trying" to find an insurance solution.

The physicians' group calls for including legal foreign workers in the national health insurance system, deducting part of their wages as health taxes and for providing a

basket of basic health services for illegal workers.

YAD SARAH IN IKSAI

Yad Sarah has opened a new branch — its 80th — in Iksal, an Arab village in Galilee near Nazareth.

The facility lends out a wide variety of regular and high-tech medical rehabilitative equipment and carries out numerous homecare support services. The much-needed branch, initiated by Iksal social welfare director Fayad Habashi, was funded by the Doron Foundation and the Iksal village council.

The new branch is open five days a week for two to three hours daily and is staffed by 50 volunteers. It serves 50,000 people in Iksal and neighboring villages.

A Yad Sarah evening was recently held at Kibbutz Lavi for volunteers from the 16 northern branches: all the Iksal volunteers participated in the event and were warmly welcomed.

KOSHER FERTILITY FACILITY

Kupat Holim Leumit has opened a sperm lab in Bnei Brak that is run strictly according to Halacha.

The lab operates only after dark to "protect privacy." Providing sperm for fertility tests is problematic according to Halacha, so the permissible process must be followed to the letter.

A rabbi is on hand to advise couples, and a supervisor makes sure that the embryos are not switched between couples by mistake.

A number of hospitals, such as Shaare Zedek in Jerusalem and Laniado in Netanya, have their own halachically approved fertility labs, but this is reportedly the first one opened by a health fund.

CYCLING TO VIAGRA

Riding a conventional bicycle seat can lead to impotence, according to researchers at Boston University's medical school.

Chief researcher Pedram Salimpour told The Associated Press that sitting on an ordinary narrow, pointed seat can crush an artery that controls the ability of the penis to become engorged with blood.

"When you sit on a bicycle seat, you are sitting on the artery," Salimpour said. "God did not mean for you to sit on a bicycle seat."

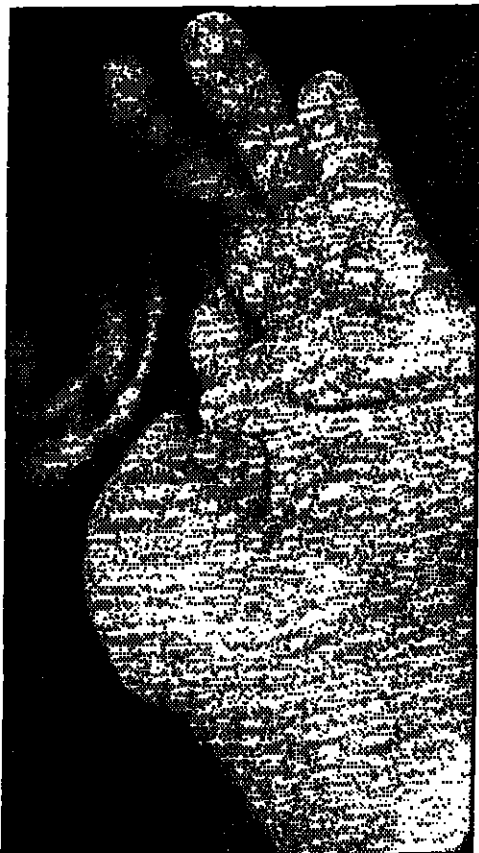
And although impotence is not common, his research shows that impotence happens more often to cyclists than to runners, Salimpour said.

When someone sits on a narrow seat, too much weight is borne by the perineum, the area between the anus and the scrotum in which the cavernosal artery is located, Salimpour said.

"Imagine a straw. Flatten it and let it go back. Eventually you are going to flatten it, and it is not going to bounce back," Salimpour said.

Of the runners, only 1.1 percent reported impotence, compared with 4.2 percent of the cyclists, Salimpour said.

"If anything, these numbers are



Smokers face nearly twice the risk of losing their hearing as do nonsmokers.

low," he said. "These people are self-reporting impotence. That is not something you like to report."

Many victims can be helped with Viagra, the new anti-impotence pill, while others will need injections or a bypass operation that routes blood around the damaged artery. But the problem can be avoided through the use of newer bike seats with oval gaps, which look something like a toilet seat, Salimpour said.

Positive test clouds world basketball tourney

ATHENS (Reuters) - A doping spectre hung over the world basketball championship for a time on Friday until the mention of ginseng appeared to lower the stakes.

Nigerian Julius Nwosu tested positive for ephedrine but his coach Ayo Bakare said the well-known centre was a "perfect gentleman" who would never use performance-enhancing substances.

Bakare explained Nwosu had been sold some medication "supposed to be ginseng - not a banned substance - but on examination it had turned out to contain traces of ephedrine.

FIBA, the sport's ruling body, will decide later what action to take and may ban the player for between one and three months.

Nwosu's immediate suspension from the tournament meant Nigeria were forced to play their third and final group game against Australia without him - a match they had to win to stay in the tournament.

But even with Nigerian-born NBA player Hakeem Olajuwon giving encouragement from the sidelines, Nigeria lost 70-64 to complete a depressing day.

"It was good tidings for the Australians who had threatened to become the tournament's under-achievers.

Tipped as possible medal winners, they had lost their first two matches and faced an exit had they been beaten again.

There was better news too for the United States who reached the second round with an easy 88-62 victory over South Korea.

They shrugged aside the defeat by Lithuania on Thursday and as they continue on the learning curve refuse to put gold medal prospects out of their minds.

Hoss Greece completed their group matches with a third win in three games, beating Senegal 68-57 while Spain clinched their pool with a winning basket in the last second to edge out Argentina in overtime 68-67.

Yugoslavia and Lithuania also recorded victories to end unbeaten at the top of their groups.

Yesterday is a rest day with second round action starting today.

Reds add to Marlins' losing streak with 3-2 win

MIAMI (AP) - Dmitri Young's seventh-inning double drove in the go-ahead runs as Cincinnati edged Florida 3-2. Friday night, the Marlins' 12th loss in 14 games.

Brett Tomko (10-7), who held Florida without a hit until the fifth inning, allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings, striking out four and walking three.

The loss was the Marlins' 71st of the year, one more than their total last season when they won the World Series.

Gabe White pitched two perfect innings for his first save.

Matt Maniet (3-1), who relieved starter Jesus Sanchez, took the loss. Sanchez allowed two runs and seven hits in six-plus innings.

Padres 5, Expos 4

In Montreal, streaking Kevin Brown won his 10th straight decision and Greg Vaughn hit his 38th home run for San Diego.

Brown (13-3) struck out 10 for the second straight game and for the third time in four starts, allowing four runs on seven hits without a walk in seven innings.

Astros 7, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Carl Everett doubled in two runs with his third hit of the game and the Houston Astros finally figured out Francisco Cordova.

Mike Hampton (9-5) yielded three runs on six hits over 6 2/3 innings for his third consecutive victory over the Pirates.

Cardinals 3, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Ray Lankford hit a three-run homer off Greg Maddux in the sixth inning for St. Louis.

Mark McGwire, acquired by St. Louis from Oakland last July 31, was 0-for-3 with two strikeouts.

Maddux (14-5) was working on a two-hit shutout in his bid to become the NL's first 15-game winner when he gave up his first homer in 84 innings since Milwaukee's Jeremy Burnitz connected June 1.

Diamondbacks 8, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Devon White and Jay Bell hit home runs to back Andy Benes (8-1), who gave up six hits in 7 2/3 innings and struck out five.

In the sixth, Andy Fox, who had three hits, singled and Bell followed with his 14th home run. Karim Garcia doubled with two outs and scored on Danny Klassen's triple.

Brent Brice's RBI single chased Jeff Juden (7-10).

Dodgers 4, Mets 3

In New York, Eric Young's RBI double scored the go-ahead run as Los Angeles scored three times with two outs in the ninth inning.

Trailing 3-1, The Dodgers put together a three-run rally against John Franco (0-6). With two outs, pinch-hitter Roger Cedeno hit an RBI triple to right. Franco then threw a wild pitch that tied the game at 3, his fifth blown save of the season.

After pinch-hitter Tom Prince singled, Young hit a line drive to the wall in left.

Giants 7, Phillies 6

In Philadelphia, Bill Mueller's tiebreaking double with two outs in the ninth was San Francisco's 32nd comeback win of the season.

Jose Mesa (2-0) worked the eighth for the win and Robb Nen pitched the ninth for his 28th save in 29 chances.

Rey Sanchez doubled with one out in the ninth against Yorkis Perez (0-2). One out later, Mueller lined a double into the left-field corner.

Cubs 9, Rockies 1

In Chicago, Sammy Sosa hit his 42nd homer and Henry Rodriguez homered twice to help Cubs rookie Kerry Wood win his 11th game.

Sosa homered in the first on a 3-2 pitch from Jamey Wright, a drive to right center against the wind that cleared the fence. Sosa is second in the majors in homers behind St. Louis' Mark McGwire, who has 45.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Devil Rays 5, Tigers 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Fred McGriff drove in two runs with a pair of RBI singles and Julio Santana pitched eight strong innings to win for the first time in six weeks as Tampa Bay beat Detroit 5-1.

The victory was the seventh in eight games for the Devil Rays, who got a solo homer from Miguel Cairo and extended Detroit's losing streak to four straight.

Twins 6, Blue Jays 4

In Minneapolis, Frank Rodriguez pitched five-hit ball over seven innings and Paul Molitor's tie-breaking sacrifice fly sparked a three-run seventh for Minnesota.

Rookie David Ortiz added an RBI double to make it 5-3 and Ron Coomer had a run-scoring single off Woody Williams (9-6) during the rally.

Royals 9, Orioles 6

In Kansas City, Missouri, Dean Palmer hit two of Kansas City's four home runs and had four RBIs as Baltimore lost for the fourth time in 21 games.

Palmer hit a two-run homer off Scott Erickson (11-9) in the third and another two-run shot off Doug Drabek in the sixth.

Jeff King and Johnny Damon also homered and Jose Offerman singled twice to stretch his career-best hitting streak to 20 games.

White Sox 10, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Albert Belle broke the major league record for home runs in July with his 16th and Frank Thomas broke out of a slump with a grand slam and five RBIs for Chicago.

Belle's two-run shot to center off Tim Lincecum in the seventh broke the record held by Joe Dimaggio (1937), Hank Greenberg (1938), Joe Adcock (1956) and Juan Gonzalez (1996).

It was Belle's 33rd home run of the season. He finished July with 32 RBIs.

Yankees 5, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Jorge Posada hit two home runs and Scott Brosius added another as the Yankees moved 49 games over .500 for the first time since 1961.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta 72 38 455 -

New York 54 50 528 14

Philadelphia 55 52 514 15X

Houston 42 67 385 29X

Florida 39 71 355 33

Central Division

Chicago 45 44 596 -

Cincinnati 42 48 544 3X

Minnesota 55 54 585 10

St. Louis 51 57 472 13X

Pittsburgh 58 59 459 15

Cleveland 48 62 436 17X

West Division

San Diego 71 38 451 -

San Francisco 58 51 532 13

Los Angeles 57 52 523 14

Colorado 48 61 440 23

Arizona 40 69 347 31

Thursday's NL games: Atlanta 13, Cincinnati 3; Florida 4, Houston 3; Montreal 12, San Francisco 6; Arizona 4, Chicago Cubs 6; Los Angeles 3, Philadelphia 1; San Diego 3, N.Y. Mets 1, 10 innings; St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2.

Friday's NL games: Chicago Cubs 9, Colorado 1; San Diego 5, Montreal 4; Cincinnati 3, Florida 2; Houston 7, Pittsburgh 4; San Francisco 7, Philadelphia 6; Los Angeles 4, N.Y. Mets 3; St. Louis 3, Atlanta 2; Arizona 8, Milwaukee 2.

Thursday's AL games: Baltimore 6, Detroit 4; Kansas City 7, Minnesota 3; Oakland 6, Boston 5; Toronto 1, Texas 0; N.Y. Yankees 3, Anaheim 0, 10 innings; Cleveland 5, Seattle 8, 17 innings.

Friday's AL games: Tampa Bay 5, Detroit 1; Kansas City 9, Baltimore 6; Minnesota 6, Toronto 4; Chicago 10, Texas 2; N.Y. Yankees 5, Seattle 3; Boston 7, Anaheim 2; Oakland 12, Cleveland 2.

Hideki Irabu (10-4), who was supposed to be a key player in a Randy Johnson-to-the-Yankees trade scenario, gave up solo home runs to Alex Rodriguez, Edgar Martinez and David Segui, but improved his record in July to 4-1. He gave up six hits, walked one and struck out six in seven-plus innings.

Red Sox 7, Angels 2

In Anaheim, California, Nomar Garciaparra capped a five-run eighth inning rally for Boston with a two-run homer.

Bret Saberhagen (11-5) pitched seven innings, allowing an unearned run and five hits. Troy Glaus' second-inning RBI double - in his first major league plate appearance - was the only hit Saberhagen gave up until Darin Erstad's one-out single in the sixth.

Athletics 12, Indians 2

In Oakland, California, Tom Candiotti got his second win since May and Matt Stairs homered for the second straight game for Oakland.

Candiotti (6-13), who had lost three straight starts and nine of his previous 10 decisions, allowed two runs on five hits and four walks in 5 2/3 innings while striking out a season-high seven.

The A's, who won their second straight after a nine-game losing streak, added four runs in the fourth and six more in the seventh.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

New York 74 27 738 -

Boston 63 44 589 15

Baltimore 55 54 585 24

Tampa Bay 54 56 491 25X

Central Division

Cleveland 62 46 574 -

Minnesota 51 56 477 10X

Kansas City 48 60 444 14

Chicago 47 60 439 14X

Detroit 44 63 411 17X

West Division

San Diego 58 50 537 -

Anheim 57 51 528 11

Oakland 48 60 444 10

Seattle 48 60 444 10

SPORTS

in brief

Liverpool want to insure Owen for £60 million

LIVERPOOL (AP) - Liverpool want to insure teenage England sensation Michael Owen for £60 million in case the 18-year-old striker's career is halted by injury.

Owen, the biggest young star to emerge from British soccer since George Best in the 1960s, was one of the stars of the World Cup, scoring one of the best goals of the championship and attracting attention from the biggest clubs of Europe.

That figure, which takes into account his transfer value and what the club earns in sales from shirts and souvenirs, would top the reported £50 million insurance cover Inter Milan have placed on Brazilian star Ronaldo.

Barnes faces life ban

NEW YORK (AP) - The second part of shot putper Randy Barnes' doping test is positive, and now he must appeal to US athletics authorities to avoid a lifetime suspension.

Athletics world governing body on Friday confirmed the B sample from Barnes' out-of-competition test April 1 tested positive for a banned nutritional supplement.

Barnes, the 1996 Olympic gold medalist and world indoor and outdoor record-holder, faces a lifetime ban for a second offense. His next step is to go before USA Track and Field's Doping Hearing Board.

"After the hearing, if the panel decides he is guilty, he will be suspended for life," Giorgio Reineri, a spokesman for the International Amateur Athletic Federation, said from Amnecy, France, site of the World Junior Championships.

Hakkinen takes pole, Schumacher struggles

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (Reuters) - Mika Hakkinen danced with joy on the pit wall at Hockenheim yesterday after grabbing pole position for Sunday's German Grand Prix in a hotly-contested qualifying session.

The 29-year-old Finn, who leads the drivers' championship by eight points from double champion Michael Schumacher of Germany, gave vent to his unbridled joy after seeing the local hero struggle in front of his home crowd.

Schumacher, who had hoped to make the most of the introduction of a new longer wheelbase Ferrari, was ninth for his worst grid position of the season as the heat and a series of technical difficulties took their toll.

Hakkinen will start with his McLaren team mate David Coulthard of Britain alongside him. The Scot was second-quickest ahead of defending world champion Jacques Villeneuve of Canada in a Williams and Ralf Schumacher, of Germany, who posted his best qualifying position of the year for Jordan in fourth place.

Two spectators die in Madeira rally crash

LISBON (Reuters) - Two spectators, one a seven-year-old child, died yesterday after being hit by a car competing in a rally in Madeira. Portuguese media reported the car, driven by Portuguese champion Adruzillo Lopes, careered off the track and into the crowd at a high-speed corner. Two other people were seriously injured, but the Peugeot driver was unhurt.

Peugeot and a locally-sponsored team immediately announced their withdrawal from the event.

Three people have now died in this year's race. A motorcyclist was killed nearly two weeks ago after a collision with a rally car during a training run.

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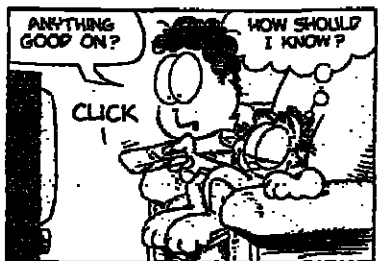
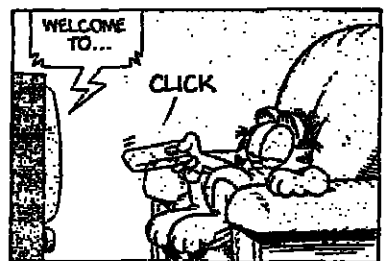
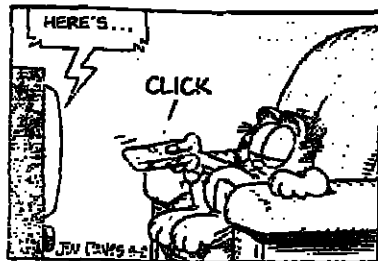
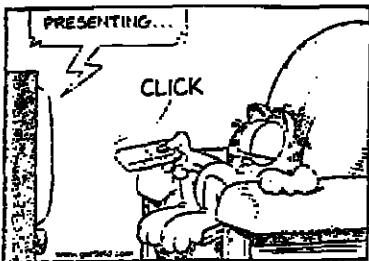
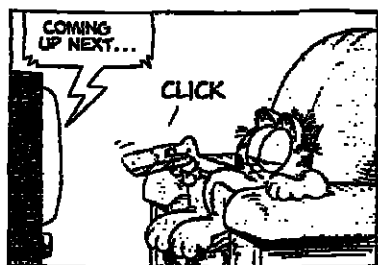
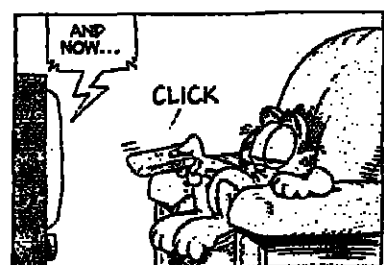
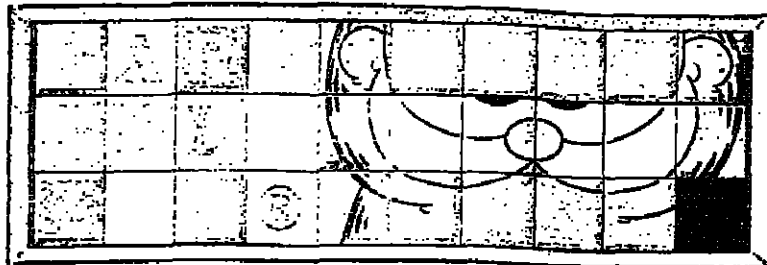
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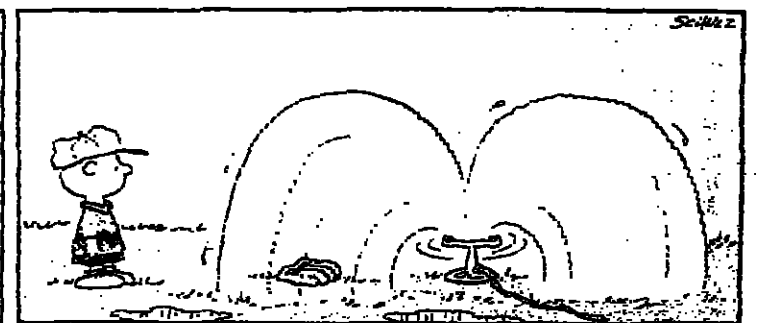
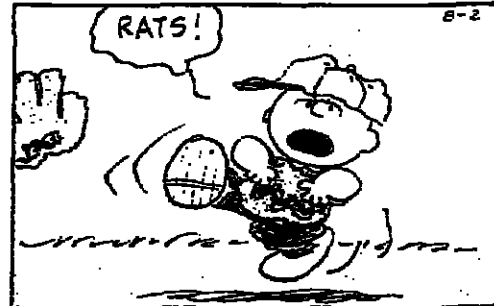
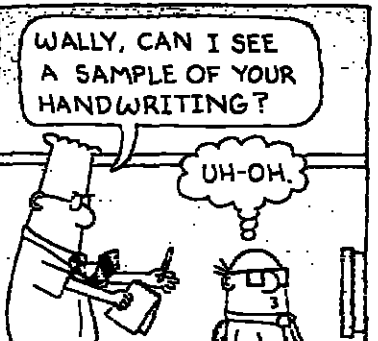
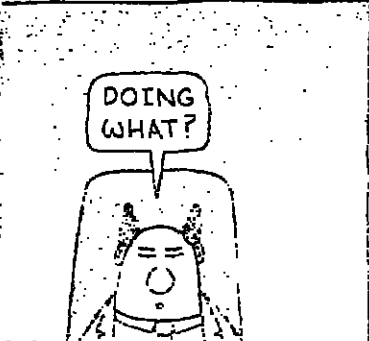
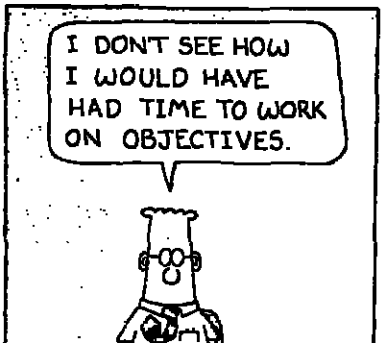
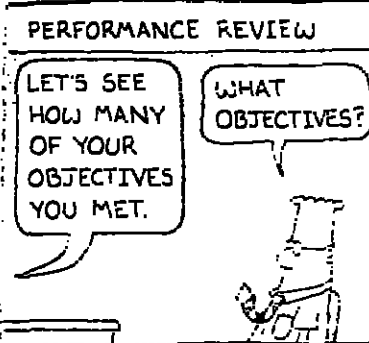
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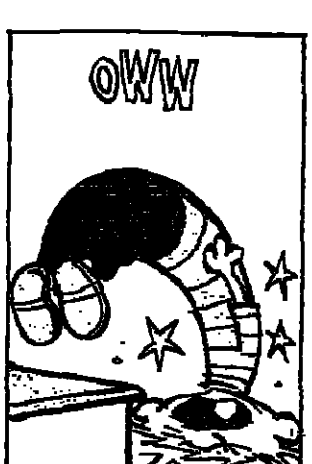
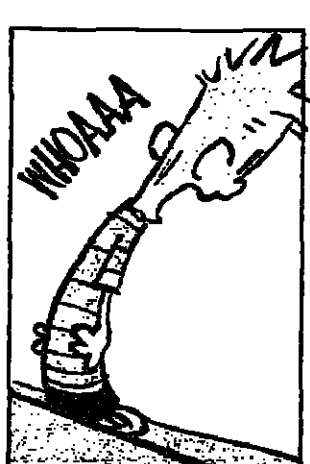
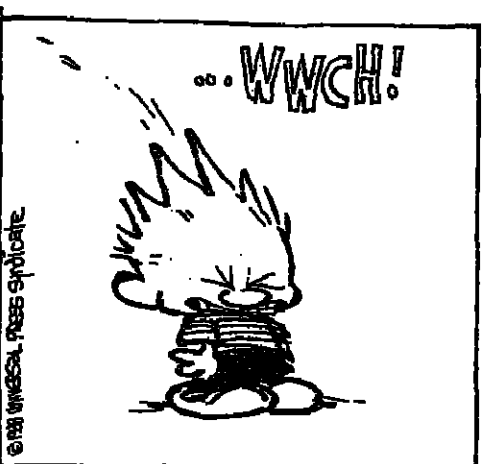
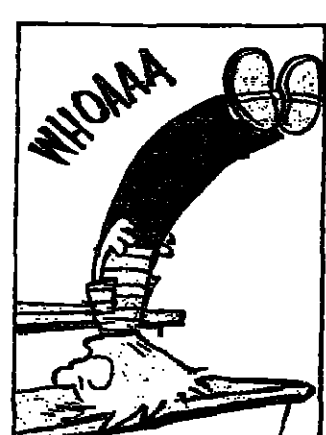
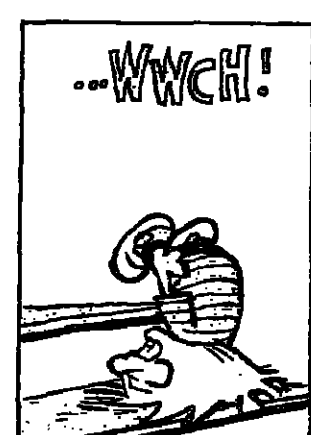
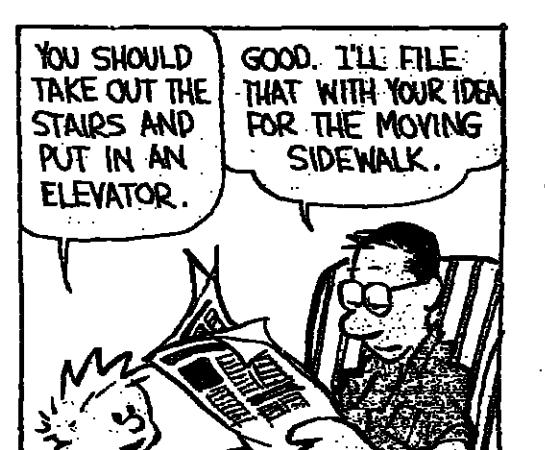
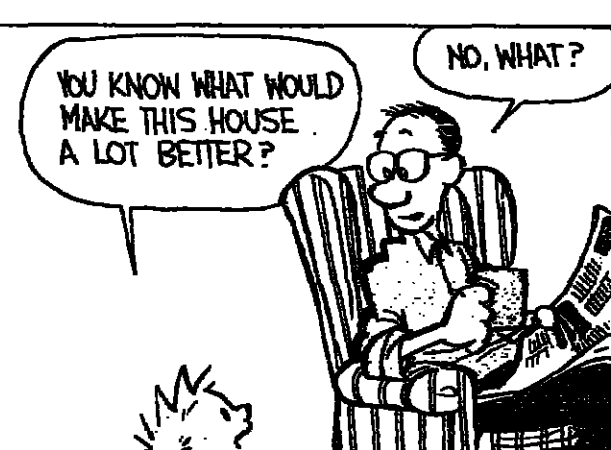
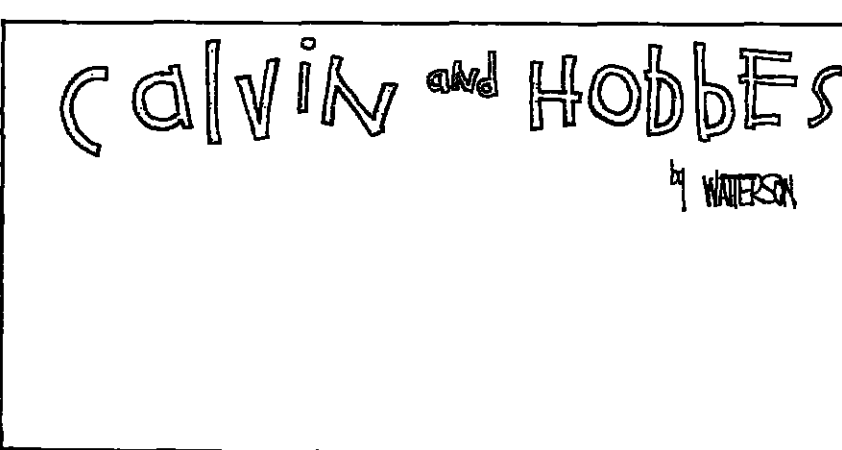
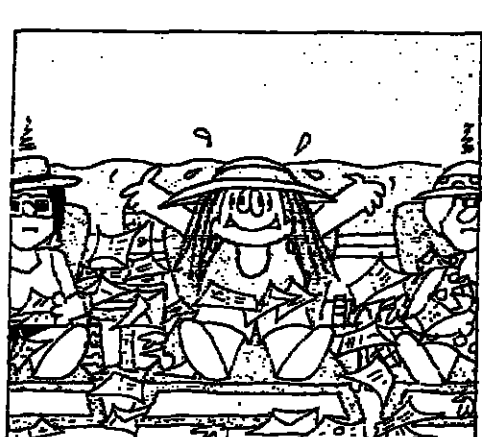
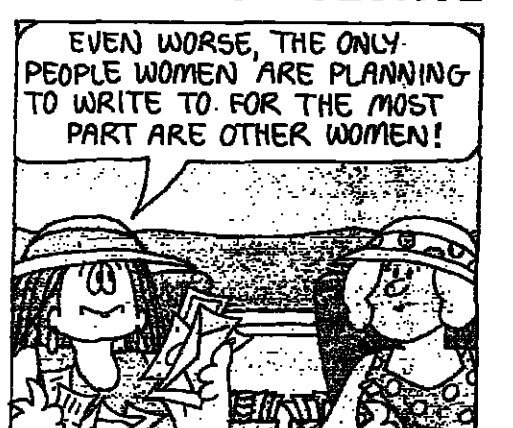
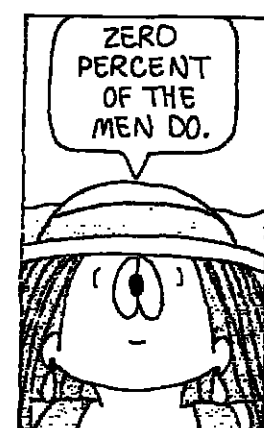
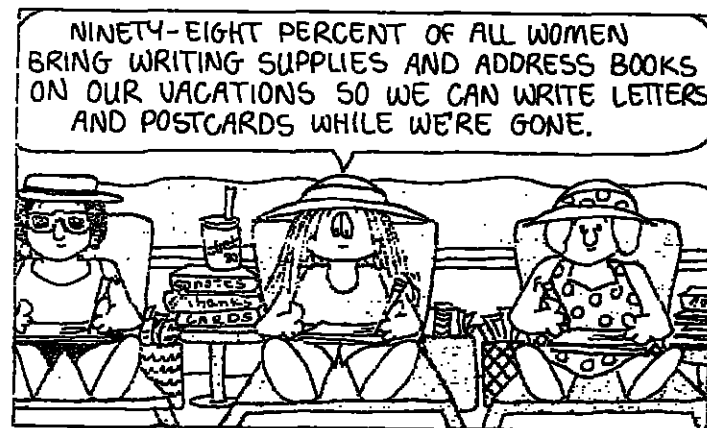
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



CATHY

BY CATHY GUISEWITE



Inside

Hoopster tests positive

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Hap. Tel Aviv to play Norwegians in UEFA Cup

By ORI LEWIS

Hapoel Tel Aviv have drawn Viking Stromsgodset of Norway as their opponents in the second preliminary round of the UEFA Cup following the draw made in Geneva on Friday.

The Tel Avivians have taken great heart from their 6-2 aggregate demolition of Finnpa Helsinki in the first round, but will nevertheless look with some trepidation to their Norwegian opponents.

While Stromsgodset have yet to score a goal against an Israeli side — they lost 4-0 on aggregate against Hapoel Petah Tikva in the Cup Winners' Cup in 1992 — Tel Aviv coach Eli Cohen will take note of the danger of Norwegian opposition. He coached Betar Jerusalem in 1996 when they were humiliated by Bodo/Glimt in a season when Betar had thought they would have an easy passage to the main stages of the UEFA Cup.

Then, the men from the Arctic regions of northern Norway braved the Middle-Eastern heat to win 5-1 at Teddy Stadium before securing the 7-2 aggregate score with a 2-1 win at home.

Stromsgodset are currently lying 10th in the 14-team Norwegian first division. They ended in third place last season and also lost in the final of their national cup competition.

The first leg is set for Bloomfield on August 11 with the return leg on August 25 in Stromsgodset's home town of Drammen near Oslo.



Australia center Daniel Herbert goes high in a tackle on New Zealand fullback Christian Cullen during their Tri Nations Test in Christchurch yesterday. Australia won 27-23.

Wallabies win Bledisloe Cup

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (Reuters) — Australia's resurgent rugby union side secured a well-earned victory against New Zealand at Lancaster Park in Christchurch yesterday, despite two late tries from the All Blacks.

Australia had lost all eight previous Bledisloe Cup matches played at Lancaster Park and had not beaten New Zealand at the ground for 40 years.

Their 27-23 win flattered the All Blacks, who have dominated world rugby for the last two seasons.

The exciting match was played on a well-grassed, hard and fast track on a clear winter's day.

The first 20 minutes saw helter-skelter play from the All Blacks and sustained attacking play from the Wallabies.

New Zealand attempted to play a kicking game instead of contesting

the ball. Australia responded with deep formations which kept the defensive pressure constant.

Tom Bowdler scored a try early in the game for Australia, with a run up the short side and a surge over the scoreline. The All Blacks failed to arrive on time to tackle the Wallabies' running lock.

The Australians continued to drive hard in the forwards, making a big hole in any All Black attempt at defense.

Toutai Kefu put in a good work rate, repeatedly breaking through the All Black midfield and making plenty of yardage for the Wallabies.

Stephen Larkham played a fiery game as first five-eighth, despite yesterday's match being the former fullback's mere sixth appearance in the position at international level this season.

His trusty kicking and high work

rate underpinned the Wallabies' attacking play during the first half.

After an exciting build-up late in the first half, during which Australia patiently retained ownership of the ball through 12 phases of play, Matthew Burke ran the ball over the scoreline to secure the Wallabies' well-earned second try.

An easy try came Jason Little's way in the first three minutes of the second half, converted by Eales, bringing the score to an impressive 17-3.

The Wallaby winger stepped in for the injured Ben Tune.

Little had 50 previous Test appearances under his belt, but made just his second appearance on the wing. He last played in that position against Ireland in 1996.

Burke's penalty kick soon after, following one from All Black

Mehrtens secured three penalties for New Zealand, and found his kicking form late in the game.

Only tries by fullback Christian Cullen and winger Jonah Lomu near fulltime eventually closed the gap after the Australians had looked like runaway winners.

The All Blacks looked a team lacking direction, particularly in the midfield backs.

The Wallabies beat the All Blacks 24-16 three weeks ago and South Africa followed that up with a 13-3 win over the New Zealanders last week.

For Australia yesterday's victory, their first in New Zealand in eight years, gave them an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the Bledisloe Cup series with one match to play in Sydney later this month. It also kept their Tri-Nations series hopes alive.

Tour comes to the end of an era

PARIS (Reuters) — The Tour de France will wobble into Paris today after a bitter three weeks of scandal and suspicion that threatened to halt a race which had only ever been stopped by the two World Wars.

The race may have survived but its reputation has taken a pummeling. After years of rumors about drug use, the veil of silence has been ripped away.

"How can we believe (the Tour) can start up again in 1999 as if nothing had happened?" French daily *Le Monde* said in an editorial. Its front page headline echoed the disillusion-

importing and selling drugs.

The Tour's fall from grace began on July 8, three days before the tour began in Ireland, when Festina's masseur Willy Voet was caught transporting 400 containers of banned substances.

Six days into the Tour Festina's team director Bruno Roussel and team doctor Eric Rijckaert were placed under investigation.

Roussel admitted that the team had provided doping substances to its riders. Festina were banned and team leader Richard Virenque left the Tour in tears.

Speedy Ullrich claws back to second spot

LE CREUSOT, France (Reuters) — Germany's Jan Ullrich clawed back second position overall in the Tour de France yesterday with a 48 kph ride to win the 20th stage, a 52-km time trial from Montceau-les-Mines.

Racing over roads made slippery by rain, Ullrich clocked one hour three minutes 53 seconds to beat American Bobby Julich by 61 seconds.

It pushed Julich into third overall but wiping out Tour leader Marco Pantani's overnight lead of 5:56 was too formidable.

Ullrich cut it to 3:21 as Pantani finished third. Magnus Backstedt became the first Swede ever to win a stage when he won the 19th stage on Friday.

His finishing sprint edged out Maarten den Bakker of the Netherlands. Italian Eddy Mazzoleni was third in the 242-km stage from La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland.

On July 23 it was the turn of Dutch team TVM.

Team director Cees Priem and doctor Andrei Mikhailov were called for questioning and formally placed under investigation.

The TVM case dated back to March when 104 doses of the banned drug EPO were found in a team car near Reims.

The Tour's darkest day was perhaps last

Wednesday when the race came to a standstill as riders dismounted and tore off their official numbers in protest at the police raids on their hotels and the speculation. They eventually continued the stage but slowly.

The previous evening police had raided the TVM hotel and taken away five riders for questioning. The team quit on Friday.

But although the Tour will end today, the investigation will go on. The five TVM riders are due to face an investigating magistrate tomorrow. Other riders are expected to be called for questioning.

For the Tour organizers the question now is how to clean up the race's reputation.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) has already said regular medical examinations will be compulsory for all riders next year.

Young yachswomen win world 420 title

Limor Kliger, 16, and 15-year-old Vered Buskila registered a first for Israeli women's sport yesterday when they won the women's world 420 yachting title in Greece.

Kliger, of Hapoel Tel Aviv, and Buskila of Hapoel Bat Yam edged out 47 other duos from 16 countries in their race for the title. The two girls' achievement is all the more meritorious as they beat far more experienced competitors than themselves. The 420-class yacht is not an Olympic class yacht.

Heather Chait

Adams's unbeaten 99 fails to halt Surrey

LONDON (Reuters) — A brave unbeaten 99 by Sussex's new captain Chris Adams at The Oval yesterday was not enough to prevent Surrey moving closer to their first county championship title for 27 years.

Adams was left stranded just short of a century as Sussex slid to 170 all out and defeat by an innings and 69 runs.

Off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq picked up four more wickets to add to his career-best seven for 30 in the first innings.

Surrey's maximum 24-point

haul extended their lead at the top of the table to 42 points over second-placed Gloucestershire who are not playing in the current round of matches.

West Indies captain Brian Lara failed again for Warwickshire, whose supporters are growing increasingly disenchanted with his contribution as batsman and captain this season.

After hitting three fours in four balls against Glamorgan, he was caught at backward short leg for 15, lowering his championship average to only just over 22.

Seattle trades Johnson to Houston, highlighting a big day of baseball deals

NEW YORK (AP) — The Houston Astros capped a wild day of trades, pulling off the biggest deal of all by getting Randy Johnson from the Seattle Mariners just minutes before Friday night's deadline.

Todd Stottlemyre, Juan Guzman, Carlos Perez and Ellis Burks already had moved before the NL Central-leading Astros made their surprising swap and acquired the Big Unit prior to the midnight EDT deadline.

The New York Yankees and Cleveland pursued Johnson all week, but Houston got him for two minor leaguers and a player to be named.

In all, 13 trades were made involving 45 players, including 23 major leaguers. Mark Grudzielanek, Willie Blair, Royce Clayton, Todd Zeile, Ed Sprague and Tony Phillips were among those involved.

The New York Mets and Toronto both made three trades, while Boston, Texas, Florida and Milwaukee each made two.

The Rangers got Stottlemyre, Clayton and Zeile in two separate deals while Los Angeles got Grudzielanek and Perez from Montreal for Wilton Guerrero in a multi-player deal.

Johnson, 34, asked for a trade during the off-season and leads the AL with 213 strikeouts. Houston got Johnson for infielder Carlos Guillen and pitcher Freddy Garcia and a future player.

The Rangers, one game behind Anaheim in the

AL West, got busy early. They acquired Stottlemyre and Clayton from St. Louis for pitcher Darren Oliver and third baseman Fernando Tatis, and got Zeile from Florida for a pair of minor leaguers.

St. Louis, which last year got Mark McGwire only hours before the trading deadline, gave up two players eligible for free agency at the end of the season.

Zeile was traded for the second time this season, having gone from Los Angeles to Florida in May as part of the deal involving Mike Piazza. Zeile, 32, is hitting .276 with 13 homers and 66 RBIs.

Florida got third base prospect Jose Santo and pitcher Daniel DeYoung for Zeile.

The Dodgers, already in the middle of several big deals this season, bolstered themselves for a wild-card run by getting Perez, Grudzielanek and a prospect from Montreal for Guerrero and three minor leaguers.

The Expos got pitcher Ted Lilly, outfielder Peter Bergeron and first baseman Jonathan Tucker in addition to Guerrero. The Dodgers also got minor league outfielder Hiram Bocachica.

Perez was 7-10 with a 3.75 ERA in 23 starts. Grudzielanek, 28, who tied the major league record for doubles by a shortstop with 54 last season, was batting .276 with eight homers and 41 RBIs.

Baltimore, a 23-year-old second baseman, joins his brother, Expos outfielder Vladimir Guerrero.

Baltimore, eight games behind Boston in the AL wild-card chase, acquired Guzman from Toronto for pitcher Nerio Rodriguez and minor league outfielder Shannon Carter.

The San Francisco Giants, bidding for the NL

wild-card spot, traded Darryl Hamilton, minor league pitcher James Stoops and a player to be named to Colorado for Burks in a swap of 33-year-old outfielders.

Burks was batting .286 with 16 homers and 54 RBIs. Hamilton was batting .294 with one homer and 26 RBIs.

In a trade of slumping players, the New York Mets traded outfielder Bernard Gilkey to Arizona for Willie Blair, who leads the majors in losses.

As part of the deal, New York also sent minor league pitcher Nelson Figueroa and cash to the Diamondbacks. The Mets also will receive catcher Jorge Fabrega and a player to be named.

The Mets, looking for a leadoff man, later got Phillips from Toronto for minor league pitcher Leoncio Ramirez Estrella. The Mets also sent pitcher Bill Pulsipher to Milwaukee for minor league infielder Mike Kinkade.

Toronto also traded third baseman Sprague, one of the few players left from their World Series championship team, to Oakland for minor league pitcher Scott Rivette.

Boston acquired pitcher Greg Swindell and first baseman-outfielder Orlando Merced from Minnesota for three minor league pitchers — Matt Kinney, Joe Thomas and John Bames.

In a minor deal, the Red Sox traded pitcher Joe Hudson to the Milwaukee Brewers for infielder Eddy Diaz.

And in the last deal announced, the Chicago Cubs obtained reliever Felix Heredia and minor league pitcher Steve Hoff from Florida for third baseman Kevin Orne and minor league pitchers Todd Noel and Justin Speier.

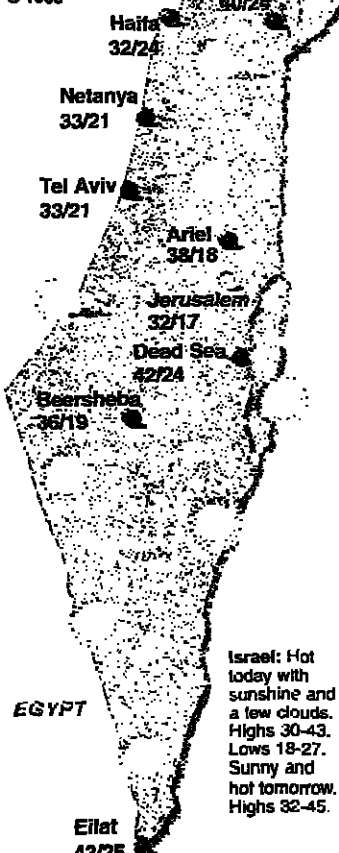
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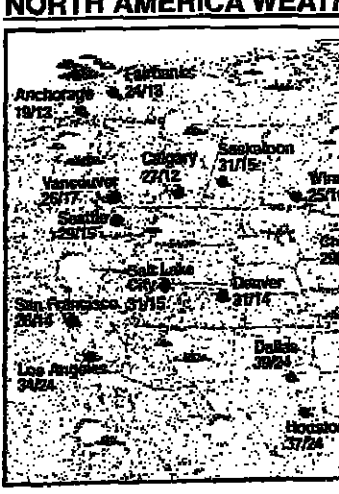
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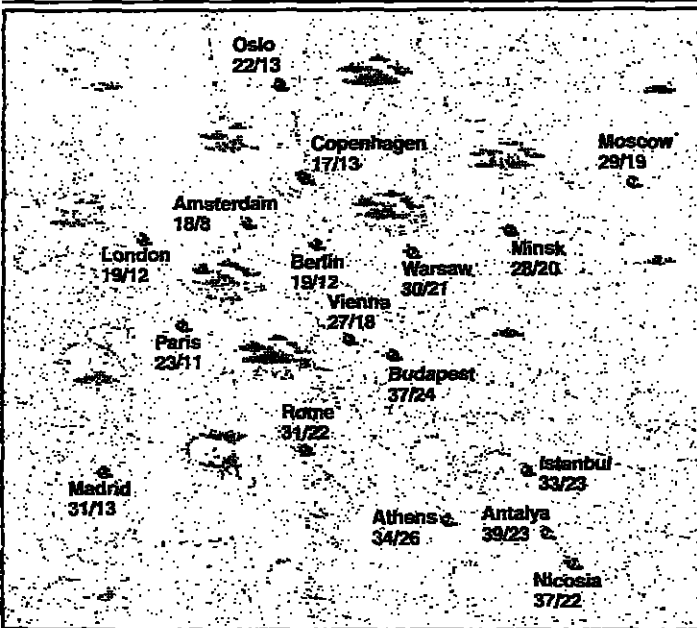
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NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Ariel	38/100	18/54s	39/102	18/54s	38/100	18/54s	37/98	17/52p
Beersheba	36/87	19/66s	36/87	20/69s	36/87	20/69s	37/98	20/69s
Dead Sea	42/107	24/75s	42/107	25/77s	43/109	25/77s	42/107	25/77p
Eilat	43/109	25/77s	43/109	25/77s	41/111	25/77s	41/106	25/77p
Haifa	33/81	24/75s	33/81	25/77s	33/81	25/77s	33/81	24/75p
Jerusalem	32/69	17/62s	33/81	18/64s	33/81	18/64p	32/69	18/64p
Katzen	38/100	18/54s	38/100	18/54s	38/100	18/54s	38/100	17/52p
Netanya	33/81	21/70s	33/81	22/71s	33/81	22/71s	33/81	22/71p
Tel Aviv	33/81	21/70s	33/81	22/71s	33/81	22/71s	33/81	22/71p
Tiberias	40/104	24/75s	40/104	25/77s	39/102	25/77s	39/102	25/77p

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, all-day showers, thunderstorms, rain, clear, stormy, unclear, fog.

Full	Last	New	First
			

City	Today		Monday		Tuesday	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Airarden	18/54	9/49f	19/60	10/50p	19/60	11/52p

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, snow, fog, etc.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

Frankfurt	30/96	13/56s	23/73	12/53s	20/71	11/53s
Hong Kong	33/91	27/80s	33/91	27/80s	33/89	27/80s
Johannesburg	19/67	33/78s	20/68	78/40s	23/73	34/40s
London	19/66	19/53s	21/70	11/53s	21/70	12/53s
Los Angeles	34/93	24/75s	35/97	21/70s	31/88	20/53s
Madrid	31/88	13/56s	34/93	21/70s	30/87	22/10s
Mexico City	23/73	13/56s	24/75	13/56s	21/70	33/89s
Montreal	25/75	14/67s	34/75	14/50s	23/73	33/53s
Moscow	23/84	19/56s	23/84	23/71s	31/88	22/10s
New York	28/81	23/84	28/81	23/70s	28/81	21/70s
Paris	25/73	13/56s	30/68	11/53s	27/71	12/53s
Prague	23/84	12/53s	23/88	11/53s	24/75	13/56s
Rio de Janeiro	21/70	19/56s	22/71	18/64s	24/75	18/64s
Rome	31/88	22/10s	23/82	18/64s	27/80	18/64s
Sydney	17/62	10/50s	18/64	11/52s	20/68	12/53s
Tokyo	32/89	27/80s	33/88	23/80s	31/88	25/77s
Toronto	24/75	12/53s	25/77	13/55s	21/70	13/55s
Vienna	27/80	19/64	28/82	16/61s	21/70	13/55s
Wahed	30/95	21/70s	20/62	17/62s	20/62	14/57s
Washington	23/84	19/56s	30/68	21/70s	23/84	21/70s
Zurich	21/70	12/53s	22/68	13/55s	24/75	14/57s

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